

St. Joseph's
College

A Retrospect

1891-1916





REV. BENEDICT
BOEBNER, C.P.P.S.
1899-1902



REV. AUGUSTINE
SEIFERT, C.P.P.S.
1891-1899
1902-1912



REV. HUGH
LEAR, C.P.P.S.
1912 —

PRESIDENTS OF THE COLLEGE.

St. Joseph's College

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1891-1916



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*To Alma Mater, the tender
nurse of our youthful minds
and hearts, we dedicate
this little volume; calling
to mind all that she
has been and now is to us.*

—The Alumni

The Foundation

"A swamp was of no value. It was a place of pestilence. But it was just the place for a monastery, because it made life especially hard, and so the monks carried earth and stone and made a foundation and then set to work to dike and drain and fill up the swamp, till they had turned it into fertile ploughland and the pestilence had ceased." In these words a certain author describes the location of the famous monasteries of the Middle Ages, the cradles of learning and culture of those days. The quotation is used here as aptly describing to the student of nineteen hundred sixteen, the site upon which the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood opened St. Joseph's College twenty-five years ago. If swamp and lowland made for education, the location was unsurpassed. "It was just the place for a monastery," or a College.

The land upon which the College now stands had historic associations with the diocese of Fort Wayne for many years before. Originally known as the Spitler farm, it had been purchased by Bishop Luers in 1867, as a site for a prospective orphan asylum, and embraced at that time about 933 acres. The price paid was eighteen thousand dollars. The Bishop's pastoral upon the subject describes it as "650 acres under fence, 200 under cultivation, 200 wood, the balance prairie." There were on it two dwelling houses, one of which contained twelve rooms, affording accommodation for forty or fifty orphans. The orphans came, boys and girls to the number of thirty-five, in 1868, under the care of the Sisters of Holy Cross. Father J. Joseph Stephan, afterwards Mgr. Stephan, head of the Catholic Indian Bureau, was chaplain of the institution.

In those days there was no railroad through Rensselaer; the nearest vantage point being Remington, ten miles south, and the road led through many a pond and slough. The Rev. Edwin P. Walters, whom the bishop had appointed to collect funds throughout the diocese for the asylum, was fond of narrating an experience of his own. Arriving at the orphanage on horseback, the weather grew bad and for two weeks, marooned by mud and water, he was unable to return. When the College acquired the property, conditions were somewhat improved; yet there was "water, water everywhere," and where not water, a wilderness of sand.

The last of the orphans left their first asylum in 1887 by the removal of the girls to Fort Wayne, the boys having been previ-

ously, in 1876, transferred to Lafayette, and the farm saw nothing of the "work of the Spirit" for another year. The Catholic Indian Bureau had purchased that portion of the property opposite the asylum buildings the year it closed, and in 1888 was ready to receive its dusky pupils in the new school. Surroundings too wretched for the pale-face might not be so ill-adapted to those children of nature, inured to the woods and wilds. In the interval, negotiations had been taken up with the Community of the Precious Blood, whose officials were finally persuaded to take charge. The Indian School remained operative until 1896, when by the withdrawal of government support, its doors were closed. The property occupied four hundred acres of the Spitler farm, a further portion of which had gone to private purchasers; so that at the time our story opens, the diocesan holdings had shrunk two-thirds.

Besides the reason cited above, based on the inherent fitness, or unfitness of things, there were of course other decisive influences that led to the establishment of the College where it stands.

Father Henry Drees, Provincial of the Congregation, desired a separate institution for the Collegiates, who were then making their studies with the Seminarians at the Mother-house at Carthage, Ohio; Bishop Dwenger had set his heart upon the establishment of a Catholic College and Preparatory Seminary for students for the priesthood in the diocese of Fort Wayne, and between the provincial and the bishop there was much in common, since the latter, at the time of his elevation to the episcopacy, was a missionary priest of the community. The provincial, as his part of the undertaking, was to supply teachers and money; the bishop as the only thing he had to give, offered his farm at Rensselaer. An earlier proposition of the same kind had been made to Father Bernard Austermann, Father Henry's predecessor in office, some years before; but on account of the unattractiveness of the location itself and its poor geographical position, had been refused. The new suggestion of the bishop to Father Henry was in reality a pressing appeal which neither he nor his consultants felt able to withstand, and the "gift," after having been long debated and much opposed, was accepted at last.

The bishop's deed conveyed about three hundred acres; what the College has since acquired, has come by direct purchase of the surrounding farms.

Plans for the College were soon drawn and the contract let in Fort Wayne. The date was Feb. 6, 1890, the successful bidders, the Medlands, father and sons, of Logansport, Ind. It is noteworthy that these gentlemen have been prominently identified with the beginning and growth of the College. Every building in



FIRST COLLEGE BUILDING.

the enclosure from the original structure to the imposing new gymnasium, the hall of science and music, is of their construction. In a material sense they are the builders of St. Joseph's College.

Excavations were started as soon as the weather permitted and the work on the foundation progressed so rapidly that it was possible to lay the corner stone early in July. We are indebted to Father Florian Hahn of the Indian School for the particulars. They lie before us in the form of a communication to the *Nuntius Aulae*, the quarterly bulletin of the Congregation.

Rensselaer, July 27th, 1890.

Since you so kindly printed my last letter I gladly send you more news of Rensselaer. This time I will pass from the Indian School to the future St. Joseph's College.

Something, then, about the erection of the new institution of the Precious Blood Fathers, lying in the vicinity of Rensselaer, Jasper County, Indiana. Who is building and paying for it, I need not say; nevertheless, I can say that through the good offices of the Rt. Rev. Bishop a respectable sum has been given us. And what especially pleases our Rev. Procurator, we may still hope for more. Now for the description:

Our St. Joseph's College will be a very fine building, by far the most pretentious in Jasper County. It will be three stories high, with a basement 135 feet long, 55 feet wide, 55 to 88 feet high, with an imposing tower of 115 feet in the middle of the front side, and smaller tower in the rear.

The basement is 10 feet high, the outer wall being made of local stone, and almost finished; it is built very strong and lasting, the partitions of the rooms being constructed of brick. The basement contains the kitchen and larders, the cellar, two or three dining-rooms according to the number of those who wish to satisfy their hunger, the laundry-room and a few other rooms *pro quacumque causa sive necessitate*.

Above the basement, i. e., about five feet above the ground, the three stories will be built of brick. Of course, the window sills and the like will be of sandstone; they will be prepared on the ground by the stone-cutters. With the exception of the cement floor in the basement, the floors, wainscoting, beams, etc., will be of wood.

The first floor will contain three rooms for the Sisters, four classrooms, three private rooms, and a reception room. The second floor, the chapel, sacristy, infirmary, library, two private rooms and two large study halls. The third floor contains the dormitories.

I can inform you, dear friend, that the walls will be very beautiful and strong. There will be enough hard bricks for the first story, which will soon be finished. The wall is strong, provided with pillars, sandstone and terra-cotta trimmings, and the building can very well compare with other school buildings.

St. Joseph's College is intended for Catholic youths from twelve to eighteen years. They will be given the opportunity of a regular College course, preparing them for entrance into either the seminary or any technical profession. Naturally, the necessary professional staff will be forthcoming, and at least a septemvirate will be necessary. The Rev. Fathers and Professors, whom Father Provincial will appoint, may rejoice, for they will have a beautiful house, fresh air, and healthful sulphur water, opportunities for fishing, hunting and swimming, and everything the heart desires, besides the chance to instruct and educate the young. We will get students readily, if only the school is good. "Ergo," says the philosopher, "if we hang together, we will surely get help from the Rt. Rev. Bishop as well as from the Rev. Clergy." In the meantime, we will let the masons continue their work; this year everything will be under roof, next year it will all be finished.

You certainly have read the accounts of the laying of the corner stone. It took place on the tenth of July. Very Rev. H. Brammer, Administrator of the Fort Wayne Diocese, performed the ceremony, assisted by Very Rev. H. Dress, our Provincial; Rev. Anthony Dick, Rev. H. Hellhake and Father Florian, i. e., myself. The Indian boys helped with the singing. Many people were there, and it was a very beautiful celebration; indeed, a Precious Blood Sunday, full of meaning.

Rev. Anthony Dick really should have written this; but he is so busy he could not do it.

The College is started and must now be finished, therefore a hearty "Onward" and "Good Luck" to all whom it concerns. First, to our Very Rev. Provincial, then to Father Frank, and not less to the future Rector, Father Augustine, likewise to the "troubled" Father Anthony, and finally to all our Rev. Confreres.

With regards to you, dear Nuntius, as well as to all your readers, I remain in *communione operum et precum*.

Your friend,

FLORIAN HAHN, C. PP. S.

P. S.—On the college grounds are two frame buildings which can be used as private dwellings. The personnel is: Rev. Anthony Dick, general inspector of the building operations; Bro. William Zink, and Bro. George, who has charge of the horses.

Father Anthony and the two brothers occupied the orphan buildings, where they were joined later by others of the Congregation; Father Augustine, the appointed Rector, arrived in January, 1891, and a number of community students date their entrance on April 15. One of these writes as follows:

“When I arrived at Rensselaer, on April 15th, 1891, the new building was almost finished; the carpenters were working on the interior. It was indeed a bleak and desolate looking spot. All the old landmarks of the former Orphan Asylum were still prominently in evidence, seemingly reluctant to yield to the encroachment of a style of architecture different from their own. One by one, however, they were doomed to extinction, only such being granted a respite as could give temporary shelter to the students and brothers laboring on the grounds. Among these last was the old chapel, in which services were conducted until the dedication of the new one in the College; and another old building that might be designated the *pro tem* community house, since it did service as such to the full capacity in all the term implies.

This second building originally contained two rooms on the ground floor, which by the carpenter's skill were converted into three and a half story or attic overhead. The ground floor now affords all the compartments of a well-established rectory, minus, of course, some of the luxuries. The upper half story or attic did service as a dormitory. These two buildings are still intact, one (the old chapel) used as a carpenter shop; the other remodeled for the brothers.

The grounds harmonized with the buildings; swamps, sand dunes and woods greeted the eye. An old pond, in which bull frogs, water snakes and turtles fought for supremacy, occupied the site of the present lake.”

By dint of much effort the buildings were ready at the date set for the dedication, Sunday, August 2, 1891. Bishop Joseph Rademacher of the diocese of Nashville officiated. The bishop and the attending priests celebrated their Masses in the new chapel, except the last Mass of the day, that of Father Paulinus Trost, who officiated at half past eleven at a temporary altar erected at the top of the steps at the main entrance. This was done for the accommodation of the late arriving excursionists, who came in large numbers from Hammond, Michigan City and Lafayette. Dinner was served on the premises, but as the attendance exceeded all expectations, the supply of food soon failed and many went home hungry. The dedication service proper occurred in the afternoon at three o'clock. The steps were utilized once more, the sermon of the day, delivered by Father John Bleckman, of Michigan City, being spoken from this rostrum. Father Henry and the reverend members of the Faculty assisted

the Rt. Rev. Bishop in the ceremonies, their number being augmented by the neighboring clergy of the diocese. Of these are remembered the Revs. J. H. Guendling, Lafayette; H. M. Plaster, Hammond; John B. Berg, Reynolds; H. A. Hellhake, Remington, and Joe Weber, Klaasville.

One thing only served to mar the happiness of the occasion, the absence of Bishop Dwenger. Broken in health, he was unable to attend and delegated the office of opening the College to his former associate and co-laborer, the Bishop of Nashville. Bishop Dwenger never saw St. Joseph's College. His death occurred after a long illness on January 26, 1893. A Moses who had led his brethren in the Community and his priests and people in his diocese of Fort Wayne, it was not vouchsafed him to set his feet upon the promised land, the realization of the great ambition of his declining years. May not Faith console us in believing that today from the Mountain which is Heaven, the finger of God is pointing out to him St. Joseph's College, in every proportion magnified beyond the expectations of his fondest dream?

To St. Joseph's

In all reverence and love,
To the vaulted throne above
We raise a prayer of blessing on thy name.
'Mid this sordid earth and grime
Standst thou noble and sublime,
With holy fires our hearts thou doth inflame.

In the misty vale of youth,
All the tender flowers of truth
Thou hast planted, and hast nurtured into bloom;
From ethereal distaffs caught,
Precious silken threads of thought
Thou art weaving into fabric in thy loom.

Open, then, thy portals wide,
Alma Mater, open wide,
That the love that fills my heart may enter in;
Though we've parted hence and gone,
Thy bright beacon light lives on:
Thou shalt always be to us what thou hast been.

C. O'L., '11.

The Opening

It required no little effort to have the College ready for occupancy. There was so much to be done to make the building habitable and to provide it with the necessary furnishings for the use of Professors and students as well as for the Sisters, who had been called to take charge of the kitchen and laundry. The grounds had to be cleared of debris, and the ridges of sand, which extended to the very front of the College, had to be removed and a few gravel walks laid down. Wednesday, the second of September, must forever remain prominent in the annals as marking the day which inaugurated its real work, the beginning of studies. The faculty comprised the following Fathers of the Community of the Precious Blood: Rev. Augustine Seifert, President; Rev. Benedict Boebner, vice-president; Revs. John Nageleisen, Paulinus Trost, Stanislas Neiberg, Leopold Linder, and Rev. Mr. Sailer, then in deacon's orders. A lay professor of music, Professor Haas, completed the list.

Father Augustine had been a valued member of the Seminary Faculty at Carthagenæ, whence he was spared only because of the greater need of Rensselaer. A priest of solid piety and scholarly attainments, a man of great business and executive ability, it was felt that the fortunes of the new institution could not be placed in better hands. His assistants had either been priests in parishes or teachers at Carthagenæ. Father Paulinus had just returned from the art schools of Munich, where he had been studying painting. If this narrative bespeak little of the personality and achievements of the members of the first faculty, it is for the reason that their most prominent trait was an unassuming modesty, respect for which must silence eulogy. The maxim that "the evil that men do lives after them" has its opposite. It is only after the living have joined the dead that their survivors may publicly accord the meed of just praise and reckon at its worth their labor's toil. Such is not to be our office here. Every member of the first Faculty enjoyed the Silver Jubilee of the institution which he helped to establish. Alma Mater, fair handmaid of holy Church in a useful and ever extended field of activity, salutes them, the living witnesses of her traditions, as Christ spoke to His own: "And you shall give testimony of me, because you were with me in the beginning."

As noted heretofore, a group of Collegiates from Carthagenæ had arrived some months before to assist the brothers in the

work of preparing for the opening. These students had begun the humanities at the Seminary; the continuance of their course at Rensselaer may be considered to have been private, inasmuch as their advanced Latin class taught by Father Benedict was not open to seculars. Their course, while adequate enough, (except in Latin and a few minor branches they recited with the first class) did not embrace the full curriculum and they "finished without graduating," at least so far as graduation meant diplomas, in June 1895. The first public Commencement occurred a year later. The main body of their companions, the first graduates to be, came on from Carthagenia or from the novitiate at Burkettsville toward the end of August; and on the last day of the month, which happened to be Monday, the doors were thrown open to receive seculars. Joseph Waechter, now a priest in the diocese of Toledo, had the distinction of being the first of these; and in a sense, therefore, his is the honor of being the first student of the College; for inasmuch as the dominant idea of its foundation was the establishment of a public Catholic College as contra-distinguished from the school at Carthagenia, which was for candidates of the Congregation exclusively, Rensselaer was distinctively for Seculars. That same day, on later trains, arrived a number of boys from Fort Wayne, under the guidance of a priest from Bishop Dwenger's household. Their coming may be given special emphasis for many reasons. It was the fulfillment of the Bishop's pledge to send and encourage students to the College, a guarantee which his successors, Bishop Radermacher and Bishop Alerding, have faithfully followed since, making the College, if not formally by letters patent, at least in informal recognition, the preparatory Seminary for the diocese of Fort Wayne. It was the nucleus of a band of students, who took the initiative during the year when traditions there were none, and who, in the class room, the society halls and on the athletic field, laid foundations that have endured till now. If these few pages appear to give prominence out of all proportion to the first classes to the relative exclusion of those which followed, it is only because the beginnings of things are always the most interesting, and because there is scarcely a tradition or custom or an organization at the College at present which had not its inception, to a greater or lesser degree, during the first years, from its opening until the second Commencement exercises in 1897. That succeeding classes have developed and perfected what was handed down to them need scarcely be questioned. The early students are the first to recognize the fact. Their view point gives them the advantage of comparison, and for once the comparison is not odious. The veterans of '96 and '97 salute the graduate of '16!

Bishop Dwenger's boys had known each other before coming to college; they had sat side by side under the Brothers of Holy

Cross at the Cathedral School; and this fact gave their ranks cohesion and unity without exclusiveness. Their new acquaintances, mostly classicals for the priesthood, like themselves, were cordially admitted within the circle, until the designation, "Fort Wayne students," had an extended application. It meant "the crowd," and the crowd was *urbis et orbis*. Finally, as between the Seculars and the community students, it was the former upon whom the exigencies of circumstances made the greatest demands. The union in the same house, of religious candidates for the priesthood with Seculars, was after all, an experiment, and *festina lente*. Moreover, the observance of the community discipline, its longer chapel exercises and the performance of tasks during the work hours that were recreation periods for the Seculars, all made for segregation. The restrictions, happily, were in their rigor only in the very beginning. The experiment a success, the discipline was gradually modified, until Religious and Seculars were common participants in every student activity. As early as a year from its establishment in October, 1892, the Columbian Literary Society, the first and most important organization among the students, received accessions to the ranks from what became known in later years as Saint Xavier's Hall. Not that the Religious were inactive in the years immediately following the opening. The College choir, the orchestra, and the band, were of the Religious; so, too, were the actors of the dramas and musical programs in German, that afforded so much entertainment and no little linguistic advancement to the entire student body.

Classes were started, as before noted, on the third day of September. Barring the special class for the advanced Community Students which was private, there were only two others, a First Latin Class, and a preparatory one for those who were not sufficiently advanced to begin the academic course. A number of the Fort Wayne students and several from the Community were obliged to enter the latter, an explanation for their six years' residence at the College, whereas the stipulated course in the classical department was, at that time, only five. Hence the last of the first arrivals did not depart from St. Joseph's until after the second Commencement in June 1897. Mention should be made here of subsidiary courses, the Normal and the Commercial, each of which required three years to complete. The Normals were mostly from Ohio, who found positions after their graduation in the schools of Auglaize and Mercer Counties, stepping stones to more responsible and lucrative appointments in the city. Many of them are today prominent school men; others have entered successfully into business and professional careers.

The students for the Community had their study hall on the second floor above the basement on the east side of the corridor.

The location can be described to the visitor as beginning at the first door from the now middle stairway, and extending forty or fifty feet toward the chapel. A room called the library came next. In reality it was only a store room for text-books and other supplies. The rector's room was last, adjoining the chapel which is now, with its sanctuary walled off, St. Xavier's Hall. Opposite the library was the infirmary, and further down, immediately across from the community hall, the secular study hall. Neither of these has retained its original dimensions, being partitioned into private apartments and recitation rooms.

Father Paulinus became prefect and spiritual director for the Novices, one of the Seniors having the duty of keeping order in the study-hall. Father Benedict acted in a like capacity over the Seculars; and as his room opened into theirs, and the door was always open, there were few moments when they were not under his observation and kindly guidance. The association was very intimate, and to the student most beneficial. It has been remarked that several existing organizations at the College today had their inception in these first years; it should be added that it was through Father Benedict's good offices that they became a possibility and a success. Most approachable and sympathetic in his attitude toward his young charges, it was to Father Benedict they carried all their petitions and their plans. It was Father Benedict always who presented these projects to Father Augustine or to the Faculty for approval, and when approval was secured, gave very material assistance toward their execution.

The great value of student organization, literary or athletic, aside from the direct results aimed at, consists in the development of initiative and self-reliance. Father Benedict had a mind to recognize the fact, and hence, though acting as Moderator, he never assumed to be the acting head of any society. He encouraged the students to think for themselves and to act for themselves; to make their own law and to punish its infraction. The Columbian Literary Society, for instance, was not a class with the Moderator as professor enforcing discipline and dealing out tasks; and precisely because it was elective, a place on the program or the part in the play was a coveted honor, and the results attained more satisfactory, than if undertaken simply because they had to be. On the other hand, where his counsel was advisable or his active participation advantageous, it was freely given. In the society room and in the study hall alike, the influence of the first prefect was plainly felt.

Under such conditions as these pictured, with manifest limitations on the one hand, and beneficial influences on the other, the College began its existence and its work. A letter of Father Augustine's sums up the situation:



SHOWING OLD GYMNASIUM.

"As adverse conditions of the first years may be mentioned the absence of traditions for the student body; the difficulty of securing competent professors as the college grew; the 'empty dinner bucket' of the lean years following the Chicago Exposition. These conditions were offset by having a band of hard working, self-sacrificing men as professors; by the good will of the Bishop and Clergy of the diocese, by the prayers and financial support of the Congregation of the Precious Blood."

There is little that is eventful to be recorded of the first scholastic year. Professors and students met at the beginning of each day in the tiny chapel, where the Precious Blood was offered on the altars for the intentions which, however, diverse in the individual mind, were ultimately convergent in a common aim,—to seek advancement for their single selves and for the infant College, to grow "in wisdom and age and grace before God and man." Mass over, breakfast was served and the classes begun. The daily routine provided for work, with intermissions, until half-past eight, when the community students were sent back to chapel for their last exercises, and the Seculars were in the study-hall reciting the evening prayers. By nine o'clock the house was in darkness and in silence. The day was over.

Little provision was made at first for recreation and entertainment. A bowling alley in the grove near Father Paulinus's "Study" afforded the Fathers an hour's diversion after dinner; their recess after supper was taken in the room of one of their members. The students also were without a recreation room. If a desk in the study hall crashed over occasionally or a lamp globe fell to the floor, it merely indicated to the prefect near by that the pent-up spirits of the boys had made it impossible for them to confine their romps to the vacant floor space in the aisles. "Hot hand" was the most popular pastime. A student sat on a desk, and the head of a recumbent fellow who was "it," was blindfolded at his knees. With his hand across his back, palm up, the victim was struck by his companions until he had guessed who had hit him, and the hitter took his place. Of course, there was base ball in season, and sometimes out of it; and during the winter skating on the Iroquois or on the "Lake." The Seculars played the Religious and the Indians from the school across the road. The first teams were "pick-ups," until the survival of the fittest had formed something like representative aggregations of the respective divisions. There were no bounds except that visiting the town was prohibited, and many an exploration was made on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons of the "free days" over the farm and across the miles of unfenced wood and pasture land that lay beyond.

An incident which grew out of one of these excursions may be rescued from oblivion by its insertion here. On one of their

forays the Seculars had come across one of Brother Williams's haystacks in a field remote from the College. "City-broke" but decidedly uncountrified, they saw in it only a novel means of diversion. The entire company was soon atop, sliding down its steep sides, throwing bunches of it in each others' faces, until by the end of the week it lay demolished. The climax of the story is laid far from Rensselaer. One evening shortly after, the death of a neighbor brought the parents and guardians of the Fort Wayne students together. As if by a common instinct they immediately sought each other's company and were soon observed to be engaged in serious debate. Discussion, however, only served to deepen the perplexed impression that was plainly written on each face. The quarterly financial statements had just arrived from the College that afternoon. There was a diversity of charges on each account, but in one thing they were identical; each bore the same cryptic item: "Hay, fifty cents." Why did the boys need hay? As provender? Perish the thought; not even Dickens in his tales of the hard fare of the Yorkshire schools had gone to such a limit. As bedding, perhaps? But why hay, when straw which answered the purpose better, could be had as easily? And besides, were not board and bedding already stipulated in the bill?

The student of today should reflect here and be thankful. We have said before that the beginnings were very small. The story of the hay stack does but confirm it; for in that stack of prairie hay the present student may behold the first gymnasium at the College; and under the mystic caption: "Hay, fifty cents," the first recorded gymnasium fee.

Organization

The opening of the College had naturally been experimental. The return of the students the following September witnessed the beginning of real activity. First of all, there was an increase in numbers. There were now eighty-five all told, of whom forty-two were of the secular division. Father Leopold Linder had been transferred to a pastoral charge, and Rev. Mr. Sailer had returned to Carthagenia to be ordained. The vacancies were filled by Father John Nageleisen, who took the advanced Latin and English, and Father Eugene Grimm, who relieved Father Paulinus of the preparatory, now first class, in addition to inaugurating the Seniors into the mysteries of the Greek alphabet at the opening of the second term. John F. Cogan, a graduate of the Normal School and with several years of school teaching to his credit, took the classes of higher geography and mathematics, and assisted Father Benedict as prefect of the study hall, in addition to pursuing his own studies of the classics under Father John.

What augured best of all was that the house was filled to its capacity and that applications were still coming in. Physical development was to keep pace with mental, and the consultants of the Community had already voted money for a new addition to be made ready for occupancy the following year. Classes were started with great enthusiasm and with more definiteness; the scope of the curriculum itself was expanded and developed until it began to be apparent that St. Joseph's was to become in reality a college. The students, too, had begun to find themselves and settled to their new environment; they began to realize, even if vaguely, the range of the possibilities that lay before them and to plan accordingly. The constructive period had already arrived.

It was preeminently a year of organization. No fewer than three departments of student activity, literary, musical and military, date their inception from the scholastic year 1892-3. The first two have survived until the present. If the military is gone, and there are those who regret its extinction, for all the color and brilliancy it lent to the celebration of holidays and commencements, it must be borne in mind that the department of athletics has assumed most, if not all, the functions associated with it. For a detailed account of these organizations, which had so much to do toward the establishment of the traditions of the College, the reader is referred to the special

chapters at the end of our history; the narrative just now is merely chronological and discursive. The picture is all too faint of the spirit of their formation and the cheer they brought into the days that had previously been of monotonous routine.

The Columbian Literary Society was the first of these Societies; first chronologically and without the odium of comparison; first in importance, not only in the sense that things of the mind are above those of the body, but likewise also because it stood in the student body in the relation of a senate to the lower house of the study hall. Whatever was done was done through the Columbians or with them; whatever communication there was between the student body and the faculty was generally through the medium of this Society.

It would be hard to remember who suggested a literary society,—perhaps John Cogan. At all events it was he who headed the committee to Father Benedict, and thence to Father Augustine, for permission to organize. Experience at the Normal School had made him not unfamiliar with literary society work and parliamentary law. A few years senior to his classmates, he became their older brother, taking the initiative, laying the plans and giving his advice. Little was done without “seeing Cogan,” or “Mr. Cogan,” as he was deferentially called. The “Mr.” made a difference; we were boys, Mr. Cogan was a man; and what gave him his additional distinction among us: “Mr. Cogan wasn’t afraid of Father August.” We quote this praise without wishing to have it inferred that the reverend rector was in any invidious sense a person to be feared; but destroyed haystacks, gates left open for the cattle to wander into the corn, undue disturbance in the corridors, etc., sometimes did try his patience and the punishment was swift.

As was proper, the first regular meeting was held on October twenty-first, Columbus Day, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. At this meeting the Society was formally organized by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers. There were twelve charter members. A Discovery Day program had been prepared for the occasion, but the absence of the faculty members, most of whom had gone to Chicago to attend the opening of the World’s Fair, caused its rendition to be deferred until the following day. The weather was pleasant, making it possible to conduct the exercises from the front steps, the same that had been requisitioned for the excursionists’ Mass on the day the College was dedicated. To the critically disposed, if there had been any present, it would doubtless have been an indifferent affair; to the participants and the audience it was an auspicious and impressive event. There was happy enthusiasm on both sides, and of the earnestness of the boys there could be no question.

From that time on programs consisting of essays, debates, declamations and occasionally a piece of vocal music, were given in the study hall at periods of every fortnight, and on St. Joseph's Day, "The Wanderer," a little drama, and two farces, one of them a production of Conroy's, were played from a temporary stage erected in the larger study-hall.

There could as yet be nothing beyond. The College had no theatre or anything approaching it. But the semi-monthly meetings were interesting and were seriously and conscientiously conducted. If to have been a Roman was greater than to have been a King, then the Columbians were all Romans. Admission to the Society was a coveted honor, election to any office a greater one. The president's first duty was his inaugural address; the installation of officers was always a very formal affair.

At the expense of being trite, *mens sana in corpore sano*. It was this thought that led to the formation of the Seifert Light Guards, later developed into the St. Joseph's Battalion, which proved a valuable auxiliary to the Columbian Literary Society. Together the two organizations planned and executed the celebration of the calendar festivals.

The Military was never the director of organized sports, either baseball or football; its chief purpose was physical development and exhibition drills. As a matter of fact, it suggested and supervised the athletic games and contests, which from that time on characterized the holidays of the early years. The Military with the assistance of the College Band put on a series of fancy drills in the morning; its officers planned and umpired the sack race, the tug of war and the running jump that marked the afternoon, and the Columbians closed the evening with a literary program or a play.

To Lawrence Eberle belongs the distinction of being the original apostle of preparedness. The rudiments of his military training had been acquired the year before at our neighbor's, St. Viator College, across the state line; and the fever was strong in him. Lacking else to do, his companions readily adopted his suggestion to arm, if not to fight, and armed they forthwith were.

The faculty, perceiving the great advantage of the drills, encouraged them to form a permanent organization. This was done in November, 1892, under the name of the Seifert Light Guards.

The officers selected were: Chaplain, Rev. Benedict Boebner; Major, John F. Cogan; Adjutant, Thomas J. Conroy; Captain,

Lawrence A. Eberle; First Lieutenant, James J. Betsner; Second Lieutenant, Leo J. Gross; First Sergeant, Henry E. Gerard; Second Sergeant, James B. Fitzpatrick; Color-Bearer, Basil A. Didier; Drummers, Ambrose J. Seimetz, Godfrey Buehrer. The last three named were Community students. At no time were the boys from St. Xavier's enrolled in the ranks. The numerical strength of the organization was thirty-three. A second company, Company B, was formed the year after; and from the two were selected the Boebner Columbian Guards, for special maneuvers and fancy drills.

A cadet cap was the only uniform at first; the accoutrements, old U. S. Springfield rifles of the design of 1864 with bayonet attachment. Drills were held twice a week in a brick shed occupying the present site of the Sisters' house and kitchen. The building had just been erected for a laundry, but the equipment not having been installed, it was utilized as an armory until the completion of the addition to the College, when the soldiers moved into their permanent quarters in the recreation room.

The most notable appearance of the Military the first year was its participation in the Decoration Day exercises in May, 1893, at Rensselaer. It made an impression in more ways than one. The A. P. A. movement was then at its height, and there arose serious discussion among a few "patriots" of the town and countryside about the urgency of proceeding to the College at dead of night to break in the doors with sledge hammers and carry off the guns. Had they come, sledges would have been unnecessary. The doors were always left unlocked, and, except in winter, generally stood wide open with no one on guard save Bismarck, the sleepy St. Bernard dog. It may seem remarkable, but never in its existence has the College been molested by thieves or night marauders. The watchman's duties are still confined to keeping a lookout for fire.

The feeling against the "emissaries of Rome" had a further expression, however, a year or two afterward on another Decoration Day. The Military with its band had participated in the parade to the cemetery where the memorial services were being held. As a final number the boys had been requested to do the honors of firing a salute over the veterans' graves. The captain was just on the point of giving the order to fire when a spectator began a most disgusting and abusive tirade, protesting to the presiding officer that "he wouldn't allow such a profanation over the remains of his dear departed brothers, etc., etc." For all he could have prevented, the volley might have been discharged. To the coolness of the boys it is due that it was not. Orders from the captain brought the rifles to a "carry arms." It was the most effective rebuke. To do justice to the assemblage,



LAKE AND PARK.

there was nothing but condemnation of the exhibition of bigotry. The College received many expressions of regret over the occurrence from the officials in charge and the citizens generally, and the members of the town Grand Army Post were present subsequently at the annual Military day celebrations on the College grounds.

The College Band owes its existence to the
Musical Organizations. fortuitous circumstance, the unexpected donation of a set of instruments by a benefactor.

This occurred late in the second term, and it was not long until there was "music in the air, music everywhere." The players were all Community students, as indeed at all times since these have continued to be the mainstay of the music departments, both instrumental and choral. Father Benedict was the director; Professor Haas, the lay teacher, limiting his efforts to the instruction of the pay pupils on the organ and piano. Father John and Father Paulinus also took part in the first rehearsals, which were held in the south parlor. It was a proud day when the aggregation made its first appearance. The repertoire consisted of a solitary number, a selection entitled "The Reception March," which was offered to the public under various disguises, being given a different rhythm and tempo, so as to deceive all but the musically enlightened.

The College Orchestra was organized a few years later, we believe by Prof. Hemmersbach and the co-operation of Father John. For a while it had a rather inconspicuous existence, owing mainly to the lack of competent violinists, but in later years, especially under the leadership of Prof. Baunach it developed into a very competent musical organization, contributing in a large measure to the charm of the programs and improving the taste of the students. Other musical student organizations, such as the glee clubs, minstrels, etc., have come and gone, with the fashion of the hour or the fancy of their promoters.

If we mention the Choir last, it is not to underestimate its services or rank. From the very beginning the Choir has held the first place among the musical organizations of the college, and no efforts have been spared to enable it to perform its function worthily. That these have been uniformly successful is well known. Of the priests who have given their loving care to the Choir may be mentioned the first rector, Father Augustine, and after him Father Benedict and Father John, and later Fathers Clement and Justin. With each of these the direction of the Choir has been a labor of love, inspired by zeal for the glory of God and the edification of souls. Their efforts have been nobly seconded by the organists and met with willing response on the part of the students. St. Joseph's has always cultivated true Church Music and taken every pains to instill a love and

appreciation of it into the students. In this the Choir has been the most important factor, though the congregational singing of the students has also contributed to it.

There can be no doubt that in spite of the lack of many things now considered almost indispensable, the year was profitably and pleasantly spent. The students' retreat between the terms furnished spiritual stimulation and did much to develop the vocational spirit. It was conducted by Father Henry Meissner, pastor of St. Charles Church, Peru, Indiana, who from then on until his death was accounted one of the College's best friends; a good priest whose tongue was ever at the service of the students, whether for a spiritual exercise, a military oration or a lecture on Shakespeare, upon which latter subject he was an authority. The mere announcement of his coming always produced eager anticipations, which were always realized.

The beginning of the new addition was a source of much interest and of much activity also among the students of the Congregation, whose services were required during the free days to assist the Brothers in hauling and placing material. The foundation was blessed by Father Augustine on Sunday, April 23, the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, and by the time school ended the students were able to form a very fair conception of the greater St. Joseph's that would greet them on their return after the vacation had gone by. Father Paulinus in his report to the *Nuntius Aulae* in April speaks of the progress of construction and supplies many interesting details which the reader will be glad to find translated here. The original was in German.

April, 1893.

The task of writing about St. Joseph's which the *Nuntius* has imposed upon me is not a very easy one. That such an article will be received with joy by the readers is evidenced by the interest which they take in the College. So much is sure, that an institution like St. Joseph's has plenty of obstacles to contend with during its incipency, but with God's help and the protection of St. Joseph, we shall succeed. May this report be a glimmer of hope to those who consider the College an undertaking filled with troubles and no balm to sooth them. To those who have only thoughts of doing good, let these few words be a stimulus to their expectations, and an exhortation to continue their benevolence to the institution.

In previous reports mention has been made of the construction of the building. Hence this report will concern itself only with the inner regulations and the development of the College since its opening.

If, dear *Nuntius*, you would scrutinize the great expenses already incurred, you would certainly be astonished at the large

figures. At the same time I would like to inform you what it means to furnish a spacious building like this, with so many empty rooms and bare walls, to make them habitable to over a hundred persons. And at that, to furnish them satisfactorily for the boarders. To this add the necessary provisions for a chapel, the sacred vessels, vestments, etc.

All these necessities were, thanks to the prudence of our Rev. Director, procured at a very reasonable price. The bedsteads are all iron, simple and durable. The seventy-five desks are of ashwood and were made by a Wabash firm. The blackboards are slate and are very durable. The class-rooms contain benches for some ninety students and were all made by our own carpenters. We have three upright pianos and three organs, and all these instruments are used very much. One place where the difficulty of all beginners makes itself prominent, is our empty library. Already quite a sum of money has been spent for the purchase of necessary books, and still there are but empty walls and unoccupied book shelves in it staring at the visitors. Nevertheless, one is forced to remark to them: "This is our library." The progress of the institution is certainly the result of God's blessing. Acknowledgment must be made to the Rev. Clergy for the support they give in sending young men to our College. The College opened in September, 1891, with twenty-four boarders and twenty-six candidates for C. PP. S., who were only beginners in *mensa, mensae*, etc. The second year opened in September, 1892, with forty-seven boarders and forty-one community students; therefore the enrollment was almost doubled. Some could not be received on account of lack of room. It must be noted that last year all the classical students and commercial students, with two exceptions, returned. The private and oral examinations show not only diligence on the part of the students, but likewise the painstaking efforts of the teachers. Father Augustine Seifert is the Rector of the College and teaches besides the different branches of the Commercial Course, Higher Mathematics, Physiology and Hygiene. He has twenty-four class hours each week. Father Benedict Boebner, Vice-Rector and Prefect of the Seculars, is professor of the highest Latin class, History, English, Geography, Religion and Stenography; he has twenty-two classes a week. Father John Nageleisen is the director of the Music Department. He also teaches Latin, English, Arithmetic, U. S. History, Geography and German. This work occupies twenty-six class hours. Father Eugene Grimm is teacher of Greek, Latin and German; he has twenty-six hours each week. Father Stanislaus Neiberg, besides being pastor of the parish of Rensselaer, teaches English, Bible History and Religion in the lower classes. Finally comes myself. Besides handling the paint brush, I act as prefect of the students C. PP. S. The horarium is so

arranged that all my branches are in the morning, Latin, German, English, Spelling and Geometry. In the afternoon all my time is devoted to painting. As freehand and mechanical drawing are optional, only the more talented ones take these studies.

We have also a lay music professor and an older student, Mr. Cogan, who teaches Geography and Arithmetic. There is a monthly repetition and examination in each branch and at the end of each term an oral examination, to which the Rev. Clergy and parents of the students are invited. All the branches, with the exception of German, are taught in English. Therefore our students from Europe must give special attention to the English language during the first term, so that they can take up Latin in the second, but all the English speaking students study German, and some have made excellent progress.

The discipline of the house is discreet but strict. Continued and flagrant disobedience, as well as immorality, are punished with expulsion. Three expulsions have already made a deep impression.

Altogether the present *corpus studiorum* is very satisfactory; and among the Seculars are some very gentlemanly and pious boys. We have every hope to believe that under the protection of St. Joseph, our College shall be not only a place for educating the body, but first of all, the soul; so that parents need not worry when they entrust their sons to us. This hope will be fulfilled by following the words of the Divine Master: "*Vigilate et orate.*"

Among the students has been founded the "Columbian Literary Society," for dramatic purposes; also a cadet corps, called the "Seifert Cadets." The latter have military drills of every description and are provided with guns and bayonets. They hold their exercises every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon. A drummer and a waving U. S. flag give them a military appearance.

I wish to state here that the lack of space will be done away with by the enlargement of the present building in such a way that it will be a symmetrical whole. This is no air castle, for during the last five months diligent hands have brought building material for the projected addition; a mountain of sand and stone, and thousands of bricks of such a quality that the Pharaohs of Egypt would have been proud to have them for their pyramids. The work will be started as soon as the plans by Mr. DeCurtins of Carthagera are finished and the contract has been given. The digging of the basement was finished on March 15, when the masons began their work. Now after two weeks the foundations are finished. By next September the building will be completed. This new building will contain: in the basement, a recreation room for Seculars, a dining room, three bath rooms, barber shop,



PARK VIEWS.

etc. On the first floor a roomy study hall for seculars, providing a hundred and fifty desks, and some recitation rooms. The second floor will have the chapel with four or five altars, and some private rooms. On the third floor will be an auditorium and two dormitories.

PAULINUS TROST, C. PP. S.

It would be omitting a very important event if we failed to chronicle here one other happening which occurred toward the end of the year. On May 9th, the Government granted the petition of the College for a postoffice. From this day dates Collegeville. Recognition is due once more to Mr. Cogan. It was he who went to the Reverend Rector with the suggestion that the College ought to have a postoffice of its own, and who upon Father Augustine's request undertook the preliminary correspondence that finally procured it.

Development

In a vacation letter to the *Nuntius Aulae*, Father Paulinus gives much prominence to the decoration of the new chapel. It should be said that both the design and execution of that were his own, and that it was of exceptional richness and splendor. With the assistance of Mr. DeCurtins and one or two of his art pupils in the Community, he had kept upon the heels of the plasterers, so that the new chapel was ready for occupancy shortly after school opened. It was dedicated in October by Father Walters of Lafayette, dean of that district in which Rensselaer was then situated. Father Walters died before the close of the Scholastic year; his will provided a modest bequest to the College, which was expended to procure a pipe organ. It was not a perfect instrument but an improvement over the first reed organ, and did fair service for a few years.

Father Paulinus's mural painting was not confined to the chapel. The whole interior finally smiled under his facile brush, and the exhibition hall on the top floor, pretentiously called the Auditorium, received from him the necessary scenery for the plays.

The year previous had been one of organization; the third scholastic year was one of development and expansion. The number of students had increased to ninety-nine. Forty-three were seculars of the "North Side" Study Hall, the original designation of their new quarters. Two new professors, Rev. Clement Schuette, C. PP. S., and Rev. Maximilian Walz, C. PP. S., both newly ordained, had also arrived. Father Clement took the classes in higher mathematics. Father Maximilian, usually addressed as "Father Max," whose health was

not the best, was for the time being exempt from class work. He relieved Father Benedict as moderator of the Columbians and prefect of the North Side Hall, where he spent most of his time at his desk on the rostrum reviewing his own literary studies and mapping out the course in English literature and rhetoric. This subject has always been the pet study of the classics at St. Joseph's, and it is not exaggerating to state here that whatever proficiency even the latter day students have attained in it, is remotely due to Father Max. This is not merely because he was its first teacher, but because he taught so well. His was the faculty not only of imparting knowledge, but of creating a love and enthusiasm for the subjects which he taught. As an instance we may relate the following:

When the year 1895-6 finally completed the whole academic course, there were lectures on Shakespeare in both the junior and senior classes. It is not natural for boys to seek additional class work; the inclination is usually contrariwise. Father Max's Juniors, however, were so captivated with their introduction to the Bard of Avon that they sought and obtained permission to attend the lessons of the Seniors. In the Columbian Literary Society, the *Collegian*, and the early dramatic performances, the same spirit prevailed.

What Father Max was to the literary and dramatic department, Father Clement became in most respects to the musical. We are not forgetting Professor Carl Hemmersbach. Professor Hemmersbach came to the College in September of this year and immediately began the instruction of the Military Band. He left at the end of June, 1895, only to return again in September, 1898, for two years. During the intervals of his absence the entire management of the instrumental work devolved upon Father Clement. Also the direction of the College choir and the choral societies.

The letter of an Alumnus relating to this period is worthy of perusal:

"What impressed me most favorably upon my arrival at St. Joseph's in the fall of 1893 was the College Military Band. Although this organization was in its infancy at that time, its work evidenced enthusiastic response on the part of the members. I fairly trembled with excitement under the influence of its more boisterous than artistic strains. All danger of blues and homesickness vanished when, after the opening of the second term, my fondest wish of joining the Band was gratified. Under the fostering care of Rev. John Nageleisen and the zealous work of his able assistant, Godfrey Buehrer, the Band could soon boast of enviable accomplishments. Occasional outings nourished the enthusiasm of the players and developed the very finest *esprit de corps*. About this time, Mrs. Hammond, a friend of

St. Joseph's, donated a beautiful set of band suits. How this inspired enthusiasm one can readily realize. I am sure that in many an alumnus the fondest memories of college days recall experiences with the Band.

How intimately the College Band entered into the woof and thread of college life! What holiday could have been celebrated without it? What military exhibition presented, what public occasion fittingly commemorated without its martial strains?

Although the Band has steadily maintained its place as *the* musical organization of the College, its degree of efficiency has undergone interesting variations under different conductors. The reasons for this are manifold, but a detailed discussion of them could hardly avoid dangerous ground. One thing may be stated without fear of contradiction. Since the advent of thoroughly organized athletics, interest in the Band has steadily diminished, and it is only by dint of hardest work and energetic push that anything like the former standard of efficiency can be maintained.

My other memories relate to College dramatics. The students, even in the pioneer days of St. Joseph's, were fortunate in possessing what was then considered a spacious and beautiful auditorium and a well equipped stage. Intense interest has always been manifested in dramatic work, and many alumni look back with keen satisfaction, no doubt, to the triumphs achieved behind the footlights. Costumes were all home-made, in those days, and often with remarkable skill and artistic finish. Two students, Godfrey Buehrer and Daniel Neuschwanger, will especially be remembered for their sartorial accomplishments. Historically interesting it is, that during the first years the German language held sway upon the stage; the best dramatic work was done in German.

Not all the tragic performances were enacted in view of the audience. Some were "pulled off" behind the wings and came near proving disastrous to stage managers and directors. Prior to the days of electrical equipment, the production of lightning, for instance, was no easy matter. Several faces sustained severe damage by the untimely ignition of explosives. Nothing daunted, however, they worked bravely on. Little wonder that the gods themselves held fearlessly to their thrones (in "Kronen und Palmen"), although the violence of an explosion sniffed out the very gas lights in the house and enveloped the audience in stygian darkness. How on several occasions the old stage escaped destruction by fire is surprising beyond measure. The names of Fathers Clement, Maximilian, Benedict and Mark are inseparably linked with stage traditions of the past." I. J. R., '99.

May not the students of the present who read these lines be disposed to think and harken back? It is inevitable that athletics find a prominent place upon the College program today. It need not be inevitable that the spirit of the years that have been should suffer by it, nor the organizations they produced. The pioneers of St. Joseph's rejoice exceedingly over the eminence in athletics to which the Alma Mater has attained; rejoice, too, over the material comforts and advantages which their successors now enjoy. Though things in their retrospect are always pleasant and the office of historian considered *laudator temporis acti*, there is really no disposition to conceal the fact that the beginnings with all their necessary limitations and inherent hardships, were very, very hard. On sober reflection, our retrospect may be considered only the gilding of a cloud. But they were happy days no less, and one who knew them well, a member of the present faculty, has told us why. "The first years were the best, because then the students made their own amusements. They were always willing and were happy in having wrought. In these latter times there is less initiative and less self-reliance. A professor must always lead the way." Perhaps the new preparedness spirit may change all that.

Our correspondent speaks of the home-made costumes. They were fabricated for the staging of St. Sebastian, the first drama rendered in the new Auditorium, on December 12th. As viewed in the light of the well-trained productions of today (hats off here to the undergraduates!) it was not only decidedly amateurish, but, in a measure, crude. To the participants it was most wonderful. Elated by their success and accepting their compliments very literally, nothing would do but they must go upon the road. The proximity of Rensselaer and Remington furnished an opportunity. The trip to Remington was made, of course, overland, on the wagons and hay racks from the farm. For advertising purposes a gorgeous torchlight procession was held at each place. Roman tyrants and persecutors of the Christian mingled in perfect good fellowship among their intended victims. Until the curtain rose, the lions had lain down with the lambs. We except the Emperor Maxentius. Standing in an improvised chariot drawn by a team of the College plough horses, he was soon surrounded by a number of urchins of the town who ran alongside, shouting to their companions on the sidewalks to "Come over and see the cross old king."

The presentation of Major Andre in May, showed a decided improvement. What lingers most in memory, though, attended the rendition of the final dress rehearsal. It will be recalled that one scene in Major Andre portrays the entrance of Benedict Arnold into the British camp, where he is received with ill-concealed contempt. One officer, by name Colonel Carleton, is wholly unable to endure him. The climax is a violent passage

of words, culminating in a more violent passage of arms. The impersonator of the colonel had done poorly during the previous rehearsals, but now under the coaching of the director, who had impressed him with the necessity of "feeling his part," he was determined to do his best. Keyed up to the highest tension by the excitement of the situation, he forgot his lines entirely when the encounter came. The part became literally "his own," and to the consternation of his classmates, the excoriation which he gave the traitor reached its culmination in a torrent of profanity. The explanation is the psychologist's, for the "Colonel," one of the Religious, by the way, was most exemplary among his followers. It was the first time he had been known to swear, and undoubtedly the last. The Columbians congratulated themselves upon the narrow escape. What if it had happened next evening at the public performance, when the hall was filled with visitors from Rensselaer?

We thoroughly agree with our correspondent about the superior merits of the plays in German, though at the time his letter begins, the heavier dramas in German had not yet been attempted. The earliest entertainments given by Father Paulinus's boys were light comedies interspersed with music; but they had plenty of animation in them and made the old hall ring out on many an evening with mingled sounds of loud laughter and tumultuous applause.

About this time, also, the Military had come into its own. The faculty had set aside one day in the Calendar for the boys in blue. It was a great occasion, this first Military Day, May 25, 1894; and would have been a greater had the weather been propitious. The Chaplain, Father Benedict, celebrated the Military Mass, conducted with all the impressiveness which the ceremonial was capable of lending to it; a flag was blessed at the conclusion of the service and hoisted, amid the rattle of muskets and the strains of the Star Spangled Banner, to the top of the staff on the ridge of the roof, midway between the two towers. Father Meissner delivered the oration in the Auditorium because it was raining, and then led his audience to the "Armory," which was also the recreation room, where the manual of arms was executed and the fancy drills displayed to the extent that the confining quarters would permit. Succeeding years brought better weather and very brilliant displays. The Military Days on the campus will linger long in the memory of those who saw them; the march down the road to meet the Grand Army veterans; Father Wiechman's inspiring speeches as the orator of the day; the maneuvers across the campus; even the old block-house,—the "fort,"—at the extremity of the campus, that was carried by assault in the sham battle that was the feature of a later year. In addition, the St. Joseph's College Battalion had one other office. It acted as an escort of honor to the bishop of the diocese whenever he favored the College with his calls.

We have made little reference to the every-day life of this first year in the big building. The Columbians had their quarters now in the vacated Seculars' study hall, where evidence of their prosperity began to appear in the book cases, the nucleus of the College library. It was their reading room and their meeting place. Classes in parliamentary law were conducted by Mr. Cogan, who developed the intricacies of the subject so well that before the first Commencement a "national political convention" was held and the whole official routine of that august assemblage enacted by the boys.

The recreation room down stairs offered space for romping, and that was all. A punching bag was the only gymnastic apparatus, if we exclude from this category the row of muskets along the wall. The "lean years" of the financial panic of 1893-4 demanded economy in its most rigid form. Upon Father Augustine it fell the hardest. In addition to his full quota of classes there was his "daily instance," his solicitude for the financial stability of the institution. The care of the temporalities was all his; to meet the interest on the notes, to provide the larders, to supervise the farm. Small wonder that his hair is white today.

ALMA MATER CATHOLICA.

*Sweet memories like a fretted dream
Hark back to years of youthful toil
Amid thy hallowed scenes, and thou,
Our Alma Mater, crowned the queen
Of Catholic charms. In thy embrace
The future statesman wrought with care
The golden thread that binds the soul
To God and right amid distracting cares.
The youthful head of Levite lay
Upon thy bosom, in whose depths
He heard the gentle murmur of
The Sacred Heart in accents sweet
Repeat the call of Samuel;
And there in silence answered, "Speak,
Thy servant heareth, Lord of Hosts."
How sweet thy day, thy hour of prayer
Thy Mass, thy Eucharistic Lord.
Thy campus rings with hearty shouts
Of contest, and anon thy halls
In quest of science hold the hour
Of busy silence, whilst at eve
The "Tantum Ergo" from the dome
Of chapel swells and bids the youth
Retire with benediction from
The hand of God upon his hour of rest.
O memory, thou dost poorly hold
The treasure of those happy hours,
And poor the words of mortal man
To speak a fitting praise. Do thou
Our Alma Mater understand
Our love, and call us thy own.*

L. F., '09.



RAISING FLAG, 1909.

Athletics

For several years after the founding of the College, when the number of students was yet small, athletics in various forms were carried on only through the collective or individual initiative of enthusiasts, financed by themselves or generous friends, who saw in these humble beginnings the nucleus of a great work which was to become a department of a great institution. Athletic activities being conducted upon so precarious a basis, it was not until several years later that interest in the sports had grown to such proportions that even temporary organizations were attempted.

The first of these, as has already been stated, was the Military Battalion, founded in 1892. Having for its purpose not only the acquisition of skill in military tactics but principally the development of bodily health and strength through calisthenics which form a part of military training, the movement represents an important phase in the development of athletics. But the boy with the ball and bat, who had at this time been held in the background, was beginning to assert himself. In the spring of 1902, the two interests clashed, and as a result the Military was reorganized on a new basis, under the captaincy of E. Werling. The name of the organization was changed to St. Joseph's Volunteers. In the fall of the same year military drill which until that time had been kept alive by the interest of its enthusiasts, was made obligatory on all except graduates of the classical department. From that time on the Military at St. Joseph's was on the decline. Uniforms and firearms were discarded, until in 1907 nothing remained but the drills. The fall of 1909 saw the last of the Volunteers. In 1911, shortly after the Boy Scouts were introduced in this country, an effort was made to re-establish the Military on the Boy Scout plan. But owing to an element which had for several years been growing stronger in the student body, nothing lasting resulted. The American boy, who chafes under the restraint and ceremony of military training, may for a while be fascinated by the novelty of drilling, but will eventually follow the call of the diamond and gridiron. The Military had played its part at St. Joseph's, and a very useful and honorable one it had been. Mindful of this, and believing that military training has certain educational values which no other form of exercise can give, there are those among the faculty and students who wish to see it re-established on a basis which will give it permanency and success.

The year of 1895 marks the beginning of organized sports at

St. Joseph's. It is the birth-year of a new era in our athletics: the era of clubs, the temporary organizations which sprang up at the beginning of every new season only to dissolve with its close. But temporary as they were, these organizations served admirably to keep alive and spread interest in athletics, while under their regime, because of the specialization which such clubs imply, teams were developed which easily rival, if not excel, any that were ever produced under the present system: the association of all the athletic interests. Nor was it possible at that time to found a society of the scope and stability of the present association. The attention of the great majority of students was then on the Military, and ten years passed before interest in athletics had matured sufficiently to warrant a permanent organization. This then, broadly defined, is the second step in the ladder which athletics at St. Joseph's has built and by which it has ascended, the description of whose first step is the briefly told story of the American boy at play. The second era is replete with interesting detail.

In March, 1895, the College Stars began their career on the diamond under the leadership of Manager J. B. Fitzpatrick and Captain J. Pfeifer. The Stars were the first representative team of the north side hall, and the inter-hall athletics rivalry which arose with them has come down to the present day. Shortly after its organization, the team, having procured uniforms, changed its name to Star and Crescent, while their competitors played under the title of Eagles. Eight seasons of inter-hall competition followed, featured by the pitching of B. Besinger and T. Kramer, both of the Eagles. On May 8, 1899, the Stars reorganized under the name of St. Joseph's College Base Ball Club, with Wm. Arnold as manager and A. Bremerkamp, captain. The club went looking for new fields of conquest. Only two games were played that season with a Rensselaer team, and the club went back to defend the colors of St. Aquino's Hall. But the agitation for games with neighboring towns, which this movement set on foot, culminated in February, 1901, in a petition to the faculty, on the granting of which the first College representative team was organized. The new team comprised students of both north and south sides. With E. Wills as manager and F. Theobald as captain, they passed through a very successful season, playing games with Rensselaer, Monon and Lowell. In the spring of 1902 the "Varsity" played St. Vincent's College at Chicago, and though they were defeated the policy of playing bigger teams and especially of establishing relations with other colleges at once appealed to them and has since been followed. There is a memorable factor which contributed very much to the success of the base ball team at this time. It was the donation to the team in 1901 of bats and balls by Rev. F. J. Schalk, C. PP. S., and, in 1902, of money amounting to seventy dollars, for the purchase of suits, by the business men of Rensselaer.

While the representative teams of St. Xavier's and St. Aquino's Halls were battling for the inter-hall supremacy and the "Varsity" was carrying the fame of the purple and red into the neighboring towns and institutions, the Junior and Midget adherents of the national sport were striving among themselves for efficiency and incidentally were developing material for future representative teams.

Football has always held an important place in our calendar of sports, despite the fact that since 1901 only a small number of students are allowed to play the game. From the fall of 1895, when the Vigilants and Defenders first organized, through ten years marked by an enthusiasm for the sport equal to the interest shown in base ball,—years which ring with the names and fame of such men as E. Mongovan, Wm. Arnold and W. Hilgerink,—until 1901, when regulations were introduced requiring the permission of parents or guardians as a qualification to play, the game enjoyed its greatest popularity. The above mentioned regulation was indirectly the result of the rough "cripple and kill" tactics of the game as it was then played, and restricting, as it does, the number of those who received the greatest benefit from the game,—namely, the players themselves,—it is the reason why football does not stand equal in honor and importance with the rest of sports today. After the enacting of this rule, however, it required several years to check the momentum of interest which previous years had cultivated, and it was not until 1905 that enthusiasm for football had appreciably abated. The inter-hall games now cease, and from henceforth only secular students with the required qualifications are permitted to indulge in this sport.

This brings us to a new era in the progress of our athletics: an era of permanent organization and association of all athletic interests. We have seen the course which the Military had run, the rise of base ball and the fortunes of foot ball, and before entering upon this last period it remains only to say a word about the various other games and exercises which marked the preceding years. Tennis, which today claims among its followers all but a very few of the students, was, for several years after its advent here in 1895, played by but a small minority, who organized clubs and monopolized the sport. Some excellent teams were developed and tournaments with Rensselaer clubs featured. Track work interested a few, and several events were held between local teams. But these occasions were rather exceptions than the rule, and at no time during that period had excellent sport developed a representative team. Swimming and skating were the most popular outdoor exercises, and hockey for several seasons ranked high with the lovers of outdoor sport. In 1900 a gymnasium in the north wing of the basement of the Main building was equipped, and bowling, pool, handball and

gymnastics were introduced and claimed for the first time the enthusiasm of the students. The gymnastics especially made rapid progress, and in 1902 they organized under the name of St. Joseph's College Turn-Verein. On Thanksgiving Day of the same year the society gave the first acrobatic exhibition.

The completion, in 1905, of the gymnasium opened to athletics a large field of possibilities. The student body, too, was larger than in any former year, and the need of a thorough going organization soon became imperative. On May 13, 1906, a small body of students with their prefect, Rev. Theodore Saurer, met in the old C. L. S. room and drew up a constitution which they presented on June 3 to an assembly of all the students. The constitution was adopted; Michael Shea was elected president, and the Athletic Association began its career.

The Association exists today practically as it was founded. From the first it took under its care all athletic interests at St. Joseph's: base ball, basket ball, foot ball, tennis, soccer, polo, hand ball, bowling, track and field athletics, and gymnastics, have all been fostered by it. Membership in the Association has at all times been required of secular students, and their dues finance its work. A Board of Appropriation consisting of six members and presided over by the president of the Association, besides disposing of the funds of the society, appoints all representative teams and settles points of dispute which may arise among rival teams in the local leagues. For the conduct of the different sports general managers are appointed by popular vote, who in turn choose assistants and appoint managers for the teams in their particular sports. A Faculty Director governs the affairs of the organization. Fathers Theodore Saurer, Titus Kramer and Albin Scheidler have at different times filled this place, and it is to their untiring efforts that the Association largely owes its success.

On the memorable morning of April 2, 1914, there occurred a calamity which checked the rapid progress the Association was making, and the effects of which, felt to this day, has greatly handicapped its work. It was the destruction by fire of the gymnasium and with it all the goods of the organization. Thirty complete sets of base ball and basket ball suits, together with other sporting goods and all the gymnasium apparatus, representing the accumulation of eight years, were destroyed. But no time was lost by the Association in recuperating its fortunes. Its work was pushed forward with great energy, the goods which it had lost were partially replaced and the base ball and track seasons which were just then opening were conducted with great credit to the society.

The College, feeling keenly the loss of the gymnasium, immediately set about building another and better one, which stands completed today, a monument to the untiring zeal and courage of

the Fathers of the Precious Blood. Nor is it less a compliment to their good taste and judgment, for the present gymnasium is among the finest in the State, and the almost unlimited opportunities which it offers to athletics has greatly helped to bring that department up to its former standard of efficiency.

But to return to an account of the various sports as they are fared under the protection of the Athletic Association: in base ball the Varsity continued to defend its colors in neighboring towns and institutions. In the spring of 1908 they extended their prestige to Logansport, Lafayette, St. Ignatius College and De Paul University, and in 1909 to Wabash and Notre Dame. Since then the only important addition to this array of opponents has been St. Viator College, whom we first played in 1911, and with which an intense yet friendly rivalry has ever since existed in all our sports. Among the men who did most to raise the work of the baseball representatives to the heights of excellency which it attained in these years, especially notable are Geo. Hasser, who played with the team for four successive years, spending most of that time on the mound, and Louis Nageleisen, who worked at the other end of the battery, and who, after leaving St. Joseph's, played the same position for several years with the Cleveland Americans.

A new feature was added to the system of athletics in 1907, when the first base ball class league was organized. Later followed a Junior league and an Outlaw, Federal, or Academic league, as it has been called at various times, which had for its purpose to give those an opportunity to enjoy the sport who, through lack of skill or knowledge of the game, were not fitted to play in the Senior or Junior leagues, where a high standard of playing was always maintained.

In 1905 basket ball was introduced and, owing to the length of its season and its own peculiar fascination, soon took its rank as foremost of the year's sports. On January 17, 1907, the first basket ball Varsity played its initial game with St. Cyril's of Chicago. It became the policy from the first to play only fast teams, and though for several years some games were played with organizations below our rank, we did not neglect those of greater consequence, and in the last season of 1916 we have met only the best. As in base ball, so in this sport have the class leagues, Junior Academic and Midget leagues, come to hold an important place, being, in fact, the very mainstay of the game here.

Soccer polo for several winters after the opening of the gymnasium was very popular, but interest in it soon died out, and today nothing remains of the game.

In 1907 the Acrobatic Club under management of C. Scholl and J. Vurpillat staged an exhibition of their skill as turners and tumblers. Their program, which was well received, awakened

great interest in gymnastics. In 1913 another performance was staged which was even better than the first. But the repairs which were shortly after begun on the gymnasium and later the fire, prevented the turners from practicing their art, which soon fell almost into disuse. The present gymnasium, with the facilities it offers for gymnastics, has notably revived it.

The year of 1914 is noted for many things connected with St. Joseph's athletics, but for nothing of greater moment to its development than the introduction on a systematic basis of track and field athletics. On March 24 the entire secular student body turned out with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows and began work on a quarter-mile track, which they fairly completed by the evening of the same day. John Maurer was elected general manager of the sport. Great interest was shown from the first in the new work, and by May 16th a team had been developed which defeated the Rensselaer High School team, which had participated in high school championship meets. Paul Deery, St. Joseph's best all around athlete in those years, starred by winning twenty-three of our final seventy-one points. In the fall a track league was opened which helped very much to keep up interest in the work. T. F., '16.

Twenty-five years have thus passed, during which our athletic training has kept pace with the development of other departments of the College. Nor has this department in the hands of the students developed those features which so mar the athleticism of some of our Colleges and Universities: the rule of coaches and the evils of a mercenary "Varsity." For our coaches have never been permitted to tamper with our system of athletics and their work has been confined strictly to the training of representative teams. The institution has never hired men to represent her in the field of sports, reserving that privilege for those of her students who excel both in mental and physical attainments. Though we have always prided ourselves in the teams which we send to the defense of our colors and have paid considerable attention to this branch of athletics, yet our system does not neglect the individual student, and there is no student of the College who is not in some degree an athlete. Thus have athletics at St. Joseph's developed not for the sake of athletics, but for the sake of better bodily health and strength, and its work coupled with the work of other departments of the institution, spell a noble ideal in education, the systematic development of heart, mind and body.



"THE DRIVE"—DWENGER HALL—INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL.

The Fourth Year

During the years intervening since the opening, there had been a gradual increase in the number of students, until the beginning of the fourth scholastic year saw the original attendance more than doubled.

Among the original boarders there had been a few small boys who had received such special attention as they required. Their management was not difficult after all, since St. Joseph's was little more than a large family. But the increase in the regular department was having a parallel now in the increasing number of the junior charges also. Hence the Minims. The first Minims were given their own section in the study hall, close to the prefect's desk, of course; their own table in the refectory and their own corner in the general dormitory. They were the special pride of Father Max, but as time went on became his special anxiety as well. For the Minim was fast becoming ubiquitous, demanding the same privileges as his elders, but less amenable to the rules of discipline and requiring constant surveillance. Even at that he managed frequently to escape the prefect's guard to the annoyance of the working brothers, whose premises were entered and disturbed, and sometimes also, a result of his peregrinations, with consequences equally disastrous to himself. The students of these years may yet recall the sudden hubbub that broke the tranquil silence of a certain lazy day in June. From a far-off grove was heard a scream of mortal anguish, interspersed with many calls for Father Max. Running across the open came the Minim, his face streaming with blood, his clothes all torn. It was not until he lay enfolded in the prefect's arms that the cause of his plight was divulged. "He had fallen," so he gasped between his sobs, "out of a bird's nest." Plainly, for his own sake as well as for the general welfare, the Minim had to be enthralled.

A Minim department was therefore introduced. Father Max included its supervision among his other offices, until the arrival of Father Bonaventure Sommerhauser in March, 1896, when the Minim finally came into his own. A St. Aloysius Literary Society had been established the year previous by Father Max. It now received formal recognition and ultimately its own reading and recreation rooms in the Minim Building, erected during the summer of 1897. The Minim remained until the end of the seventh scholastic year when the department was closed, in

order to secure quarters for the increasing number of professors. The Aloysian Literary Society, however, was destined to survive its founders. From the beginning it had been regarded as the junior literary society of the College, and the training school for the Columbians, which office it continued to fulfill for upwards of twenty years. The scholastic year of 1913-14 saw its name changed to the Newman Reading Circle. Soon after the incorporation of the various society libraries into the general library virtually ended the existence of the Reading Circle as such; it was therefore reorganized by Father Ildephonse Rapp on its former basis and called the Newman Club. The members are doing very creditable work today and become eligible to the Columbian Society on certain conditions.

November, 1894, witnessed the establishment of the *St. Joseph's Collegian*, the monthly College journal. The *Collegian* had its predecessor in the Columbian, a paper made up of short essays, local items and humorous contributions, read by the editor, at the Society's bi-monthly meetings; and, like the Columbian, was first fostered by the Literary Society under the supervision of Father Max. In its second year it received a staff of editors and was thenceforth an independent, in name, at least. Printed first at Chicago and later at Rensselaer, it ultimately went to press at the "Messenger" plant at the Indian School. One of its first numbers begs the forbearance of its readers, "seeing that St. Joseph's College is only a beginner, and has as yet no senior class." The point is well taken. When the College finally got a senior class the fact needed no advertising; it was written plainly on every page. The issue of 1898 and after were most creditable to the composers as well as the to the compositors; for at this time also the mechanical form of the *Collegian* was improved. An "exchange" journal from a neighboring college "wonders whether it does not believe itself to be a magazine." During the many years of its existence it faithfully reflected the work of the literary department of the College and did much for careful writing. Following Father Maximilian's departure, it was supervised by Father Benedict, and in its last years, by Father Arnold Weyman.

Publication was suspended in 1909. The heavy enactments of the present curriculum and the lack of anything like a superfluity of assistant teachers in the department had taxed heavily the energies of the overworked professors. Father Augustine's difficulty in securing "enough competent professors as the College grew" may still be felt today. With the coming of enforcements from the Catholic University, where the Community has latterly been sending its most promising subjects, it may be predicted that this hardship will ultimately disappear. Until then the judgment of the Faculty must be approved. If

the *Collegian* cannot be given the time required to maintain a proper standard, at the present time necessarily a high one, it were better to delay its reappearance yet awhile.

Religious Societies. At a College where the religious life is as deep and as highly fostered as at St. Joseph's, and where the students are all Catholic and the majority of them preparing for the holy priesthood or the religious state, we may expect to find evidence of it in the formation of various societies for the promotion of piety and the religious spirit.

The first of these was the Marian Sodality, founded on December 8, 1894, by Father John Nageleisen, to promote the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to encourage the practice of virtue and piety among its members. It was the custom at the time for the students to collect in small bands to go to the Grotto in the grove south of the College, for the purpose of offering their prayers to the Blessed Mother. With slight changes, this custom still obtains. During the month of May almost the entire body may be seen wending their way there, to offer their homage and prayers to the Queen of Heaven.

For a long time the Marian Sodality was a powerful factor in the religious life of the students. Meetings were held regularly, presided over by the Spiritual Director, and followed by a short devotion. A spirit of earnestness and emulation pervaded the society and made itself felt in the lives of the students. The older boys will remember it with a special fondness, and trace to it some of the most wholesome and precious influences of their college days.

In 1910, when the present handsome chapel was built, the Marian Sodality became the League of the Sacred Heart. The latter had gradually grown into favor, being one of the popular devotions of the day, and it succeeded, with a slight change of rule and routine and spirit, to its predecessor and former companion.

But the spirit of change is ever at work, even in the religious life, and new needs and desires and aims give rise to new organizations. This time it was the Holy Name Society which commended itself to the students. At a memorable retreat, conducted by the Rev. Brendan Kelly, O. P., in November, 1904, it was decided to organize a society of the Holy Name, whose object, as in the parishes, was to be the veneration of the Holy Name of Jesus, and the combating and suppression of all profanity. Not that students are especially prone to this vice; in fact, it may truthfully be said that there has been very little of it at St. Joseph's, nevertheless, the Holy Name is something to inspire them and to influence their thought and sentiment, and through them their conduct.

Though members of these societies, the younger boys have also been banded together into an Altar Society, to learn their duties in the sanctuary where they are called to serve in the various functions, some of which, especially at a college, require no little preparation. On the eve of Sunday and special festivals they are called together by their Spiritual Director, Father Simon Kuhnmuensch, and instructed as to the spirit and ceremonies of the day and the part they are to take in them.

For some time the students of German descent had wondered why St. Boniface was not celebrated as a Holy-day, or what was perhaps even dearer to their hearts, a free day, since St. Patrick was so honored. The feast of the Saint was therefore inserted in the holiday calendar in 1895, and a year later, February 2, 1896, saw the establishment of the St. Boniface Literary Society. It was intended for beginners in German, looking to the acquisition of a speaking knowledge of the language. The constitution provided for weekly meetings of one hour, to be conducted in German. The St. Boniface Society in its short life experienced a somewhat varied career. It continued in its original form for two years, when the more advanced among its members seceded from its ranks and formed the "Teutonia," to "acquire a thorough knowledge of the German classics." Father Clement became its director. From the *Collegian* we learn that the latter society purchased nearly the entire library of the Bonifacians. The latter expended the funds upon a number of song books and resolved henceforth to devote much of its time to the study of the songs of the Fatherland. Father Justin Henkel, it appears, conducted these rehearsals. The Teutonians scored a triumph in April of that year in the rendition of the religious drama, "Kronen und Palmen." From that time on the records make no further mention of either organization. At a much later date, in the scholastic year 1907-8, the boys of the South Hall established a new society under the name of St. Xavier's, but this society, like its predecessors, was short-lived. What is remembered best of the Bonifacians is their annual outing on St. Boniface's day, or thereabouts, on the banks of the Iroquois. The whole College attended. There was a sumptuous picnic dinner, with the leavings for supper; a variety of games all afternoon and a literary or choral program when dusk had fallen. The band, of course, contributed its full share to the entertainment. When the day was over the company "sang its way" back home through the groves and across the fields. It was all very rustic and very beautiful and the very recollection lingers fondly in the mind.

The junior year closed auspiciously. The advanced classicals, those who had begun at Carthagera, finished their course, but remained at the College for another year in the capacity of

teachers and assistant prefects, a practice which was continued for a few years after. It also saw the graduation of its first Commercial student, Edward T. Mug, of Lafayette. Edward's graduation was perfect in its simplicity. He called at the rector's room, settled his accounts and walked out with the sheepskin under his arm. There was no formal closing of school until the first Commencement other than the public examinations, which had been conducted semi-annually from the time the College opened, in the presence of the entire faculty and many invited guests. The pastors of the students were usually present on these occasions, as also Bishop Rademacher. It need hardly be said how very unpopular these "public exams" were to the students, and how the day was welcomed that saw this forever ended.

Very possibly it was the enduring recollection of these ordeals that brought from a scholastic of this year the very blunt answer to the historian's suggestion that he send his reminiscences for the jubilee souvenir: "I have been too busy to spend much time looking up anything of our past College days. I am glad I am through with them."

The annals of the fourth year would be incomplete without a reference here to recent additions to the Faculty in the persons of Father Raphael Schmaus and Father Mark Hamburger. Father Raphael's residence at the College was limited to two years, but during this interval he rendered great assistance to Father Augustine in introducing the study of physics. Father Mark began in the commercial department but was transferred later to the academic and was prominently identified with the various student organizations until the close of the eleventh scholastic year. Father Chrysostom Hummer arrived soon after, to assist in the history and mathematics departments, and to supervise the Religious. He remained until 1903, when he was appointed pastor to the Church of the Precious Blood, Fort Wayne, Ind.

About this time, too, or a little later, the College, and in particular the Columbian Literary Society, was fortunate to secure the services of a gentleman well versed in parliamentary law and eminent as an orator and an organizer of Catholic societies, Mr. E. P. Honan. A devoted friend and well-wisher of the College from its very inception, Mr. Honan was pleased to give the students the benefit of his long experience in the conduct of public meetings and to supplement the instruction of the moderator in the art of public speaking and debate. Scarcely a meeting of the Columbians has been held during these many years but Mr. Honan has been present, instructing, counseling, quizzing, and lending to the proceedings the dignity and stimulus of his genial and forceful personality. St. Joseph's owes much to Mr. Honan, both as friend and instructor, and this narrative would not be complete without at least a mention of the fact.

The First Commencement

September, 1895, brought the beginning of the first senior year and with it visions of Commencement in the following June. If the varied happenings of the times could be set down in order here, they would tell of much hard study, relieved betwixt hours by the diversions of exciting baseball games and tennis contests; the growing excellence of the Columbian programs, and the delightful evenings spent out of doors listening to the classic serenades of the Military Band. But in comparison to graduation, these things were insignificant.

One happy anticipation of Commencement was unfortunately destined to be destroyed. Father Augustine, who above all others had a right to a share in the triumphs of the Class '96 and to a participation in the exercises attending the College's coming of age, was fated to be absent. The General Chapter of the Congregation had been summoned to meet at Rome and the Rector found himself elected a delegate from the American Province to accompany the Very Rev. Provincial, Father Henry Drees. There was little time for action after the news reached the students on Father Henry's arrival at the College, for the delegates were to start for Rome within a week. For all that a conspiracy was immediately set by the graduates-to-be, resulting in a program which completely surprised Father Augustine, on Saturday evening. It was Commencement in miniature and by anticipation, and a tribute of appreciation towards the head of the institution, the sincerity and cordiality of which he could not for a moment doubt. Father Augustine departed for Rome on Sunday afternoon, the entire College, headed by Band and Military, acting as his escort to the station. The impression which the demonstration conveyed to the outsider can perhaps be best expressed by quoting the comment which the negro Pullman porter was heard to utter as the Rector mounted the steps of the car: "It certainly was a most tremendous fuss to be makin' fo' jest one man."

The Seniors had their examinations towards the middle of May. The class-roll comprised the following: Joseph R. Waechter, John F. Cogan, Thomas M. Conroy, James B. Fitzpatrick, Joseph Betsner, Joseph Abel, John C. Wakefer, Christian F. Daniel, Nicholas F. Greiwe, Bartholomew F. Besinger and Jerome Weber. The class had an additional member in Anthony A. Wagner, a college graduate of many years previous, who had decided to become a priest and had entered St. Joseph's

in September to review his classics. Though not awarded a diploma by the College, it is noteworthy that Mr. Wagner was the first of its inmates to be ordained, the same occurring at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, Minn., in June, 1899. There was also one commercial graduate, Edward Koenig.

The Commencement exercises began on the evening of June 15, with the presentation of the "Merchant of Venice" by the Juniors in honor of the graduates. The *Collegian* assures us that the rendition was excellent, with which verdict no one who saw it will even now be disposed to disagree. The success of the play was in part due to assistance from an unexpected source. A professional actor who was spending his vacation at Rensselaer happened to hear of the project and came over to the College and generously offered to assist Father Max with the rehearsals. The incident may be set down as marking an epoch in dramatics on the Auditorium stage. To the Columbians it was valuable and lasting experience, the more so, since they had a repetition of the same good fortune in the staging of "Julius Caesar" the succeeding year.

The Commencement exercises proper occurred on Tuesday evening, Father Benedict presiding; for besides being the acting Rector, the graduates were his class. It was Father Benedict who had given them their first lessons, and Father Benedict who had taken them through the Senior year after the departure of Father John.

The graduation program of twenty years ago was still a very formidable contrivance. Every member of the class, no matter how large the number, expected and was expected to participate actively in the exercises. The '96 program was along these traditional lines and embraced besides the class poem and valedictory, the additional numbers of introductory, class history, class essay, class oration and short addresses in Latin, Greek, German and French. It was a happy day for his audience as well as for the graduate himself, that witnessed the passing of this terrifying array. In the olden times the graduate did most of the talking; in this latter age he invites some distinguished personage to talk to him.

Bishop Rademacher, of course, honored the College with his presence during the festivities. As marking an epoch, he celebrated the Solemn Mass of thanksgiving on Tuesday morning, at which the baccalaureate sermon was preached by Father Joseph F. Delaney of Fort Wayne. In the evening it was the good Bishop who presented the diplomas. A frequent visitor, he knew nearly every member of the class and had a kindly greeting for each one of them as they knelt before him to receive their awards. When it was all over the episcopal benediction was imparted, and there came into every mind the realization that St. Joseph's was at last Alma Mater,—the joyful mother of children.

The Years that have Followed

It may be necessary to remark here that our retrospect is not intended as a consecutive, much less exhaustive narrative of the times that have been. Written as it is, commemorative of the Silver Jubilee, it has in a sense fulfilled this office in having recorded the establishment of the College from the original foundation in 1891 until the year recorded in the preceding chapter, when by the graduation of its first class it became a college in fact as well as in name. Moreover, a detailed account of the years that have followed is at once more difficult and less necessary: more difficult because the rapid merging of the past events into the living present makes it difficult to classify them under the retrospective at all; less necessary because the events of the later years are fresh in mind and are being recounted daily by many tongues. It remains, therefore, simply to note the principal events that have occurred in the interval, to record broadly the development of the College, and by the coupling of the silver links of years 1891-1916, to connect the present with the past.

The last of the original band of students were graduated in June, 1897; those among them that were of the Congregation remained at the College as teachers and assistant prefects until the end of the following scholastic year. A feature of this graduation is deserving of mention here. The preacher of the baccalaureate sermon was Father Herman Joseph Alerding of Indianapolis. It was his first visit to the College and marked the beginning of a friendship towards it which has since developed into the most paternal regard. Father Alerding's next visit occurred on January 9, 1901, when the Faculty and assembled students received him at the main entrance to bid him welcome as the bishop of the diocese and to pledge to him the fealty and reverence which were now his due.

The College observed its first decennial in September, 1901. The prominent feature of the celebration was the presence of several Seculars of the Class '96, who returned to the reunion as priests, the first fruits of the sowing of seeds. Their ordination had occurred in the preceding June. Father Cogan had been ordained by Archbishop Elder at Cincinnati; Fathers Conroy, Seimetz, Fitzpatrick, Wakefer and Abel at the hands of Bishop Alerding in the Cathedral of Fort Wayne. Their companion, Joseph Waechter, spoken of as the first student enrolled at the

College, was not destined to hear himself addressed as "Father" for another year. The Seminary course at Cleveland being longer than that prevailing at Mt. St. Mary's, Cincinnati, his ordination coincided with that of the Seculars of the Class '97 in the week preceding Trinity Sunday, 1902. For similar reasons and because they had "lost a year" in teaching and perfecting after the completion of classics, none of the original band of Scholastics who had finished in 1895 nor their companions in the Congregation who had been graduated in 1896, were ordained earlier than 1902. During the week of Laetare Sunday of that year Robert Meyer, Basil Didier, Dennis Schweitzer, Bartholomew Besinger and Jerome Ueber received the sacred priesthood in the Seminary chapel at Carthagen, Bishop Moeller of Columbus, the present Archbishop of Cincinnati, being the officiating prelate. Father Robert honored his Alma Mater by selecting the College chapel for the celebration of his first Holy Mass. By a happy coincidence the date was that of its patronal feast, Saint Joseph.

The decennial reunion served to emphasize the many changes that had taken place since the first commencement; some that were wrought by loss, others again by addition and by growth. Father Augustine had left temporarily in September, 1899, to reorganize and supervise the seminary curriculum at Carthagen. During his absence Father Benedict became Rector, a position which he filled with much success. In November, 1902, Father Augustine returned to Collegeville and Father Benedict was made rector of the seminary. The subsequent appointment of Father Benedict to the important position of missionary preacher led to the succession of Father Paulinus as head of the house at Carthagen. Father Paulinus had been transferred to Carthagen in 1897, shortly after the departure of Father Stanislas to Missouri, to resume once more the duties of pastor of souls. Father Max also was among the absent. The strain of class work had told so heavily upon his health that he was obliged to relinquish his tasks, which were given over to Father Benedict and Father Mark. The genial Bonaventure, Father of the Minims and latterly prefect of Aquino Hall, was likewise missing, having embraced the way of the Counsels in one of the more rigorous Orders of the Church. Filling the places of the absent were Fathers Justin Henkel, Luke Rath, Nicholas Welsh, Ulrich Mueller and Hugh Lear.

Father Justin arrived in September, 1897, as teacher of vocal music and director of the choir, giving special attention to Gregorian Chant and other forms of church music. Leaving Collegeville after a seven years' residence, Father Justin returned again in 1911 to take up his former duties in addition to those connected with the procuratorship, on the newly or-

ganized board of officials. Father Luke's residence began in 1899, with his appointment as spiritual director of the Religious, besides his work in the class-room, covering a period of eight years, when he became superior of the Mission House at Cleveland. Father Nicholas Welsh was a companion of Father Luke and identified with the Normal department until his transfer, four years later, to pastoral work in Ohio. Father Ulrich was another arrival of '99, who will be remembered as an indefatigable worker and enthusiast, doing much to advance the standard of the sciences. Since 1894 he is a member of the faculty at Carthagen. Father Hugh Lear, the present Rector, is also found within the period of the first decennial. Appointed in 1891, his acquaintance with the student body was destined to become most intimate through his positions as prefect of Aquino Hall, moderator of the Aloysian Society and chaplain of the College Battalion. As a professor Father Hugh's specialty was the Normal department; and even today with the multifarious duties of Rector he has not altogether relinquished his desk in the class-room. Others who were teachers for shorter periods, to fill a gap or meet an emergency, were Fathers Fridolin Schneider, Charles Notheis and Liberat Shupp. Father Fridolin's was meant as a permanent appointment, and it was a source of keen regret to the boys who saw in him the exemplification of gentleness and priestly refinement, that sickness forced him to seek a more moderate climate. Father Fridolin surely loved the College as dearly as its inmates loved him. Even after the lapse of years he continues to remember it in some kindly way; at one time in a consignment of relics or curios from Texas for the museum; at another in a letter to his reverend confreres expressive of his satisfaction over the happy results of their work.

With the increased force of teachers came further developments and improvements in the curriculum. The course of studies was increased to six years in 1898, affording greater thoroughness in the classics, particularly those of English and classic literature; and philosophy was added in the senior year. In one respect only was there any evidence of lack of growth. The times were hard and the enrollment of secular students was only a hundred and eight, which was just ten less than the enlistment in 1896.

The visitors to the decennial celebration were impressed with the gradual transformation which was taking place without. The dreary wastes of sand had been coaxed into a beautiful sward of green; shrubbery and shade trees were noticeable everywhere and many beds of ferns and flowers. The discovery of gravel on Brother William's farm has been taken advantage of to lay



COLLEGE ORCHESTRA—COLLEGE BAND.

out roads and walks, and there was a grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at the far end of the west grove. All these adornments were the work of the students of St. Xavier's Hall. The present park with its winding cement walks, its curbed and pillared lake and its variegated horticulture was designed and executed under the direction of a landscape gardener at a later day. A flagstaff was erected, rising a hundred and ten feet on the north campus. A gift from the Alumni, its presentation to the College during the commencement exercises in 1910 belongs to the history of more recent times.

The Alumni from without may feel a commendable pride in referring to the participation of their classmates from St. Xavier's Hall in the upbuilding of the Alma Mater. The years immediately following the first decennial were destined to give to the College several of the newly ordained priests from Carthagen; and this first increase has continued from time to time until today the entire teaching staff, with three exceptions, not including the lay professors, is composed of men who were educated within its hallowed walls. The earliest of these reinforcements were Fathers Basil Didier and Bartholomew Besinger, who arrived at Rensselaer in September, 1902. Father Didier taught French for six years; "Father Bart" was made prefect of the Seculars, and as became one who had himself been conspicuous in outdoor sports, assumed also the direction of athletics. Removed by his Provincial in 1911 to fill a vacant parish, his absence was deplored alike by the boys he left behind and by the visiting alumni. Not that they loved any less Father Theodore Saurer who succeeded him. Father Saurer's administration was characterized by great firmness, to which was united a most forgiving disposition; those he felt obliged to discipline most severely were often surprised to discover he had forgotten the offense almost before judgment had been pronounced. His residence at the College, which began in 1903, terminated a year ago when he was succeeded by his predecessor. It would be unfair to Father Saurer to ignore recognition of his teaching. When logic was added to the course of studies it fell to him to fill the chair. That he aroused the interest of even the indifferent student, is perhaps his best commendation. Nor should the services of the assistant prefects be passed over, especially those of Brothers William and Fidelis. Not a small part of the students' success and progress is due to them, and the thoughtful student is surely glad to acknowledge the fact.

Contemporaneous with Father Saurer are Fathers Nicholas Greiwe, Simon Kuhnmuensch, Arnold Weyman, Gerard Hartjens and Didacus Brackman. Father Brackman was soon trans-

ferred to Carthageria to teach theology; Father Hartjens has since joined him as professor of history, a subject he had taught with much success at Rensselaer. The rest are still members of the Faculty. Father Eugene recited his "Nunc Dimittis" upon the arrival of Father Kuhnmuensch, his erstwhile protege in Greek; the mantle of Elias fell upon the shoulders of the two Eliseuses when Father Mark welcomed Father Greiwe and Father Weyman to take his place. Noted as a careful and efficient teacher in English and Latin, Father Greiwe has recently had a new honor and responsibility conferred upon him in his appointment to the position of spiritual director of the students of the Congregation. Father Weyman is still head of the English department. The pupil of Father Max, he brought to his classes all the erudition of his professor, to which were supplemented the results of years of private study. Father Weyman's teaching has been characterized by a very vital note and by the habit of critical discernment and good taste, all of which were reflected in the pages of the *Collegian*, which under his supervision was edited by his pupils. Recognizing the advantages of the Columbian Literary Society and the college stage for the interpretation and expression of the English classics, his attention to these adjuncts has been no less than to his classes. In the latter work he found a faithful coadjutor in Father Ildephone Rapp, who became teacher of expression in 1904. Father Rapp is the present moderator of the Columbians, the director of dramatics and of the College band, to each of which he gives his most careful attention and best effort.

Six other names complete the faculty roll until the twentieth anniversary: Father Vitus Schuette, a brother of Father Clement, and Fathers Pius Kanney, Titus Kramer, Meinrad Koester and Sylvester Hartman, all of whom arrived at the College in 1904. Father Kanney found his forte in the commercial department and in addition holds the offices of Postmaster and Procurator. Father Kramer taught history and language in the intermediate classes and looked after athletics until his transfer from the College in 1914. Father Koester, in addition to the supervision of the Aloysians and his classes in higher English and History, which he still teaches, did much to advance the study of the natural sciences, previous to the arrival of Father Ignatius Wagner, from the Catholic University, in 1912. Under Father Hartman Greek is no longer a dead language. His Juniors spend many pleasant hours translating the living languages of the New Testament from the original, an invaluable preparation for the study of Scripture in the Seminary later on. A later arrival was Father Alexius Schuette, another brother of Father Clement, who has been a

valued member of the faculty until his call, recently, to the missionary field, where perhaps an even greater usefulness awaits him.

We are guilty of an innovation in these paragraphs in the reference to the reverend members of the Faculty by their family name instead of their name in religion, a departure for which an explanation is in order. A Congregation of secular priests established in Italy by Blessed Gaspar del Buffalo for the preaching of Missions, the members upon their profession were given a patron Saint to bless their work. In the intimate association of the community houses they learned to address each other by the name of the patron; and when they came to America their first parishioners, out of familiar and affectionate regard, fell into the same practice until it had grown to be a custom. This was quite beyond the intent of the founders, and the indiscriminate use of the patron and the family name gradually led to much confusion and even loss of identity. To obviate this it was finally decided at one of the Conferences to return to the use of the family name.

In our narrative we have simply kept within the custom of the times. It would be out of keeping with his day to refer to the first Rector except as Father Augustine; it would be just as contrary to the usage now prevailing to speak of his successor except as Father Lear.

Additional Buildings

The Old Gymnasium. It is owing to Father Augustine's persistent efforts, seconded by those of the faculty, that the appropriation for the first Gymnasium was secured. The need of special facilities for gymnastic exercises and other forms of play and entertainment was not yet generally recognized at the time, but when the situation was explained to the Conference at Carthagena, the necessary funds were voted for the erection of a separate building for the purpose. Its construction was begun in the fall of 1904 and the dedication occurred on Washington's birthday of the following year. Naturally the festivities on the occasion were mainly athletic, though the *literati*, also, in claim of their joint title to the building, gave a program during the course of the afternoon. The stage curtain was not raised by the Columbians, however, until June, their dedication being the rendition, at Commencement, of Richard III.

The Gymnasium was indeed a far cry from the "armory" in the basement of the College and the "Auditorium" on the top floor; for while dedicated to athletics the new building had been designed to meet also the requirements of commencement exercises and dramatic entertainments. At the end of the large hall on the main floor intended for indoor games was a stage of generous proportions; bowling alleys and gymnastic apparatus were found in the basement, while smaller compartments in the towers and in the wings made provision for music and reading rooms. On the day of the dedication it was considered the *ne plus ultra* of its kind.

A special chapter records the profound influence of the first Gymnasium upon the development of Athletics. It is fair to state that its advantages to dramatic art and to the aesthetic and social side of college life were scarcely less; and its complete destruction by fire in the early morning hours of April 2, 1914, obliterated the scene of many a pleasant and profitable hour. With the "old Gym" must remain forever associated much that is dear to students of St. Joseph's College. Nine successive classes had felt the thrill of joy and triumph as they received upon its stage their graduation honors and diplomas; it was here they celebrated Father Augustine's sacerdotal silver jubilee in 1906; here that Thomas R. Marshall, Governor of Indiana, spoke on the occasion of the dedication of the new

chapel, May 17, 1910; here, finally, that a hushed and tearful audience heard read the last farewell of the dead valedictorian, Edward J. Pryor, '06. Indisposed, but to none of his class-mates really ill, he had led the Military to meet the Bishop on the previous afternoon. Toward evening an illness the seriousness of which none but the physician surmised, forced him to the infirmary. Lingered all day, his death occurred unexpectedly just a half hour before graduation. Omitting all music and other expressions of joy, the graduation exercises were carried out according to the program. A classmate read the valedictory. Full of new and deeper significance were the words that spoke farewell: "And now, fellow classmates, I bid you also good-bye. We have each labored with might and main that we might see this night. May none ever perish."

Singularly it is not the first Gymnasium nor yet the new with which is associated the greatest dramatic triumph of these five and twenty years. The glory belongs rather to the old Auditorium, which in 1904 produced the biblical play "King Saul." Written by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. John H. Oechtering of Ft. Wayne, it was further enhanced by an elaborate musical setting, the composition of Bernard Dentinger, at the time professor of music at the College. It is safe to say that no drama enacted at St. Joseph's received quite as much critical attention or careful rehearsal as that given by Father Weyman to the staging of "King Saul." Enacted three times at the College, it was afterwards played before enthusiastic audiences at Lafayette and Indianapolis, and was made the subject of very complimentary notices in the public press.

The trip to Lafayette recalls one of the strangest telegrams ever received at the College. An hour after the Director's departure with his troupe his colleagues in the recreation room were mystified upon receiving from him the following message: "Harp on fire-escape, throne in barn." An informal faculty meeting failing to decipher it, some one at last suggested that perhaps an inspection of the college fire-escapes might furnish them a key. Investigation made it plain as day; for there on a landing outside a window of the Auditorium they found the harp of David, and subsequently the throne of Saul hidden in the hay. The telegram was Father Weyman's signal of distress. His first experience on the road, he had left some of the stage properties behind and was now calling for their dispatch to him on a later train.

**The Dwenger
Hall.**

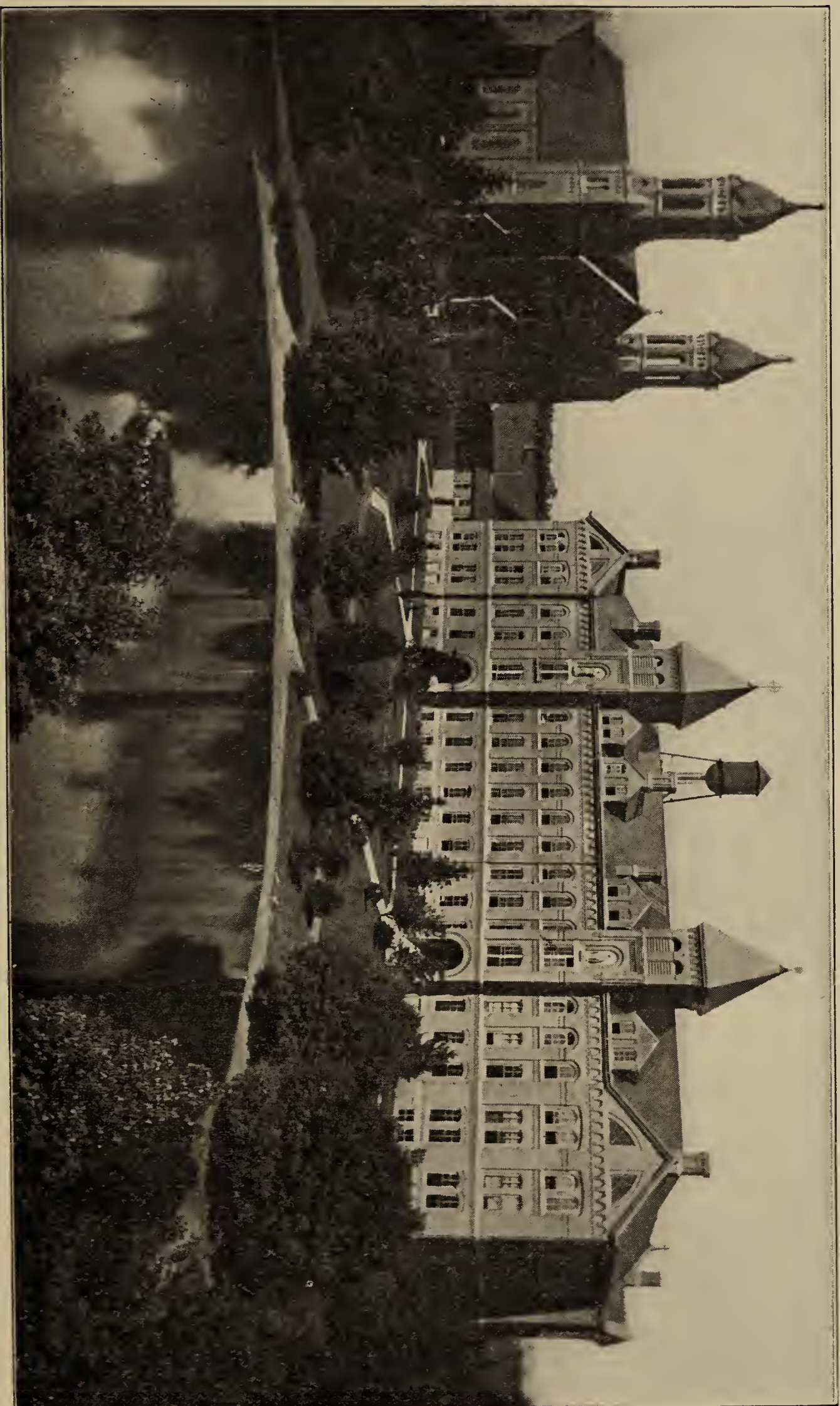
The College Infirmary, known as Dwenger Hall, was completed during the Spring of 1908. A building offering hospitality to the visitor as well as medical treatment to the ailing student,

it supplied a long felt need. Several of the professors also found comfortable quarters there, grateful for the quiet restfulness which the isolation gave. To speak of Dwenger Hall is to suggest the name of Brother Victor, the good Samaritan in time of need. What student of the College does not recall with gratitude his tender care, nursing the fever-stricken boy, bandaging the injured athlete? Brother Victor's predecessor in the old infirmary room was Brother Conrad, and before him one of the students, Linus Stahl, zealous disciples of Father Kneipp, the first infirmarians had a simple panacea for every ill, a cup of herb tea and an ice-cold bath. However it may have fallen short of the powers attributed to it, the water-cure had one latent virtue: it discouraged the chronic invalid and held out no allurements to the student plotting to escape "exams." Brother Victor's therapeutics differ largely from his predecessors', still there are not wanting reasons for believing that he does not altogether despise the advantages of the water-cure when, according to his diagnosis, the condition may require it.

Thinking of the brothers, one recalls to mind many another name, dear to the students of old, especially that of good Brother John, the tailor. Though advanced in years, and troubled with asthma and gout, and a superabundance of flesh, he worked at his trade in his little shop with indescribable diligence and dispatch, turning out prodigious quantities of "finished products," not all of which, it is true, would bear critical inspection, but good enough for a boy's needs and taste. His only recreation was to pray and to water the flowers on the graves of his deceased brethren and to "chase" the boys in his gruff fashion when they would annoy him too much, all the while muttering some formidable German words, such as "Allerweltskerl" and "Kamel," which would delight the youngsters. He is gone now, together with a good many others, but not forgotten. To them, too, and to those still living, the students owe a debt of gratitude for many acts of kindness and for the example of earnest and laborious lives, spent in the service of God and man, with no thought of self and of reward other than that which God gives to all His faithful servants.

Occupying a conspicuous position at the south end of the terrace stands the College Chapel.

After all has been said, it is the memories associated with his chapel hours that remain most sacred and enduring in the mind of every student from a Catholic College. Where religion is given due emphasis in education it is the practice of the chapel that complements the precepts of the lecture hall and impresses indelibly upon the youthful mind the beauties and consolations of our Holy Faith. Still faithful to the spirit of



CHAPEL AND MAIN BUILDING.

its founders in affording a thorough preparatory training to the aspirants to the holy priesthood, and, to the lay students, a solid Catholic education, the various chapel exercises at St. Joseph's College form not an unimportant portion of the year's routine; the morning Mass, at which practically the entire student body receives Holy Communion; the private visits according to the pleasure of the individual during the day; the Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament every evening. Supplementing these with the solemn services that characterize the Sunday and feast day observance, and the deep appeal of the annual retreat, it is inevitable that the College sanctuary must be dear to every student heart. To many a lay student it has provoked a repetition of the exclamation of the Royal Psalmist: "Lord, I have loved the beauty of thy house and the place where thy glory dwelleth." Through these holy associations the aspirant to the priesthood has received a confirmation of his vocation: "One thing I have asked of the Lord, this will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

The corner stone of the present Chapel was laid by Mgr. Oechtering, Vicar General of the diocese, May 2, 1909; it was dedicated a year later by Bishop Alerding. An imposing structure in Romanesque style, its size would really require it to be called a church. The nave has a seating capacity of 600; the sanctuary and the recesses of the transept afford ample space for nine altars, at which the Holy Sacrifice is offered more than twenty times each day. Two other altars are found in the priests' oratory adjoining the sanctuary. Tiny and insignificant, the one is the high altar from the original chapel, the other Father Paulinus' altar of the Holy Family from the second chapel in the north wing.

Governor Marshall's speech on the day the chapel was dedicated was remarkable not only as an appreciation of Catholic higher education but as a rare example of a "prudent statesman" in a plain straightforward speech throwing prudence to the winds."

"I like many things about the Catholic Church," the Governor told his audience, "and I'm not coward enough to conceal them in the State of Indiana. I believe no man is educated for the high and responsible duties of American citizenship unless trained to understand that he supports them because of an omnipotent God; unless trained to understand that God reigns and Jesus is the ruler over mankind. If I had any fault to find, it is not my business to find fault with the people who have been kind to me; if I had any fault to find with secular education it is that there are too many men loosing their moorings; that they are turned out upon the sea of life without realization of the

eternal. And why should I not be proud to be present upon an occasion such as this, at an institution such as this, where these young men are trained in a liberal education, an education which teaches them their duties to the family, an education which teaches them their duties to their state; an education which teaches them their duties to the God of their fathers.

This constitution of ours guarantees to every man in the State of Indiana the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, but some men think that this gives them a license to worship or not worship God, as they choose. I object to that. I submit that, although the constitution allows every man to worship God according to his conscience, I believe that every man must worship God somewhere, somehow, some place. And so I welcome this institution, building young men up in the most Holy Faith of the Mother Church; building them up in knowledge and wisdom better than those; in that wisdom which teaches them the rule of life of the Founder of Christianity.

Whence comes this friendship of mine to your Church? It comes because the Catholic boys and Catholic girls are taught that they are under authority. We live in a land of freedom, it is true; we live in a land where men worship God, it is true, but they are forgetting that nevertheless they are living in a land of authority, and that it is the business of all to cleave fast to the ideals of democracy, law and authority in the community. And the worst thing that can happen to a people is to have them forget that God reigns; the worst thing a people can do is to have them imagine that they can find out in fifteen minutes all about the plan of life, death and salvation; the worst thing that can come to a people is to have them believe that liberty means license, that liberty means "do as you please."

I will tell you another thing—why I'm friendly to this Church of yours. It stands to-day, by reason of its belief, it stands as the one bulwark against atheism and socialism in this country."

The Sisters' Convent. It was a source of much gratification to the inmates of St. Joseph's that after the completion of the Chapel it was possible to erect a separate structure, in fact, several of them, for the Sisters.

Their quarters in the main building had become altogether insufficient for their number and needs, and though lacking the funds, Father Augustine decided to proceed at once with the construction of a new home for them. The cluster of buildings for their usage includes a separate residence and workroom building, and a kitchen, store-house, and laundry, all of them modest in appearance, but very well adapted for their purpose. While the Sisters, too, ask for no earthly reward or recognition

and are content to be permitted to serve their Lord in the quiet and seclusion of the cloister, intent upon their daily duties, we must not omit to make grateful acknowledgment of their labors, and to record our conviction that the part played by them, though a silent and unobtrusive one, is not small and unimportant. To the student the culinary department is not the least among the College departments, and there are those who will say that it is fundamental and therefore deserving of corresponding recognition. Hence, though unseen and unknown, the good, pious and devoted Sisters have always had a place in the hearts of the students, and the memories of College days will include the services of the Sisters and the good things provided by them, as well as the recollection of their self-denying and devoted lives.

Recent Events

Father Lear succeeded to the rectorship upon the retirement of Father Augustine in July, 1912. The number of students at this time has increased to more than three hundred, with the result that the direction of studies and attention to the details of the various departments of the institution was becoming too burdensome for a single mind. The appointments of 1913 included therefore the selection of a board of administration to assist the Rector in the management of the College and in the discharge of the routine work of the office. Father Greiwe became Vice-rector and latterly spiritual director of the Community students; Father Henkel was appointed procurator and Father Wagner secretary and director of studies.

The faculty had been previously strengthened by the addition of Fathers Felician Wachendorfer, Albin Scheidler, Maurice Ehleringer and Isidore Collins. To these have since been added the names of Fathers Alexander Linneman, Rudolph Stolz, and Bernard Condon. Father Condon has just returned from the Catholic University, where he devoted himself to the study of languages. His return relieves Father Hartman, who is destined in turn by his superiors to have the advantages which the supplementary training at the University of Washington affords. The most pressing emergency which the Board of Administration was required to face was to make provision for the department of physics, chemistry and introductory science. Since the Gymnasium needed heightening it was decided to incorporate these features in the building during the course of alterations. The heavy brick edifice was accordingly raised ten feet from the foundations to afford additional height to the basement, and a large annex for the department of physics was built at the rear. The work was nearing completion, when the fire of April, 1914, completely destroyed the building and set back for two years the introduction, on anything like an adequate scale, of the study of physics and chemistry. The outlook was most discouraging until the Congregation came to the rescue with a generous appropriation for a new and better structure, resulting in the Concert Hall-Gymnasium Building. The foundations were laid during the summer of 1914 under the supervision of Herman Gaul of Chicago, the designer of the College Chapel. While practically finished and ready for occupancy within a year, the installation of equipment was the work of another ten months, making its actual completion co-incident with the Silver Jubilee and serving



CONCERT-HALL AND GYMNASIUM BUILDING.

as a beautiful monument commemorative of the event. An imposing structure of red matt-faced brick and Bedford Stone, the Concert Hall-Gymnasium Building is really more than the name implies. The entire second and third floors in the south wing are equipped for the study of physics, chemistry and introductory science. With so able an instructor as Father Wagner, it may be predicted that this department is destined to become one of the most popular and efficient in the college curriculum. The music department under the direction of Professor Leo Hovorka takes up the second floor in the opposite wing and above it are the College Library and reading rooms, the special pride of Father Linneman, who is leaving nothing undone to make it, in the best sense, both modern and monastic.

Occupying the center portion of the basement and in height extending to the second floor is the main gymnasium for indoor games, and grouped around are the various apartments for gymnastic apparatus, bowling alleys, shower baths and students' lockers. The beauty of the whole interior culminates very properly in the spacious Auditorium, Alumni Hall, rising from the second front over "the gymnasium" and affording a seating capacity for nearly eight hundred spectators. The stage equipment is the gift of the Alumni Association. Very few, if any, Colleges of the country can boast of a finer hall than this. St. Joseph's takes great pride in the possession of this large, modern and well-proportioned building. Its completion marks an important step in the growth of the College. Until now there had been no adequate facilities for several of the departments, such as are required in a modern College, and while means were found to conduct them on an efficient basis, this was done under difficulties, and it is a relief to have them transferred to better and roomier quarters.

A word, too, must be said of the changes that have taken place within the last few years in the administration and organization of the College. Partly because of the fact that the construction of the Gymnasium-Concert Hall building made the reorganization of general departments possible, but chiefly because of the arrival of new professors and a re-division of the work, there has been no little progress in the direction of studies and the daily routine and system of the institution. Much credit for this is due to Father Wagner, who had made the administration of the Catholic University and other Colleges his special study and was able to bring to the discharge of his duties as Secretary and Prefect of Studies the results of his observations and contact with noted educators. No department but has felt the stimulus of his keen and discerning mind and his capacity for organization. At the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation the College may therefore be said to have attained to

something like maturity and completion, both as to material equipment and efficiency in methods of study and instruction and government. For all who have the progress of St. Joseph's at heart, and especially for those who have labored hard to promote it, this is a cause for joy and deepest satisfaction.

Musing

*Dip thy brush in the rainbow of youth
And limn me a picture tonight,
A picture of days that are gone forsooth
But in memory clear and bright.*

*Show me the fields in the greening Spring,
Paint me the comrades of yore;
Trace me those halls where voices ring,
Rich with the deepest lore.*

*Let me gaze, O World, again a boy;
Tonight thy glory falls,
Dreaming again of youth and joy
In old St. Joseph's halls.*

V. M., '06.

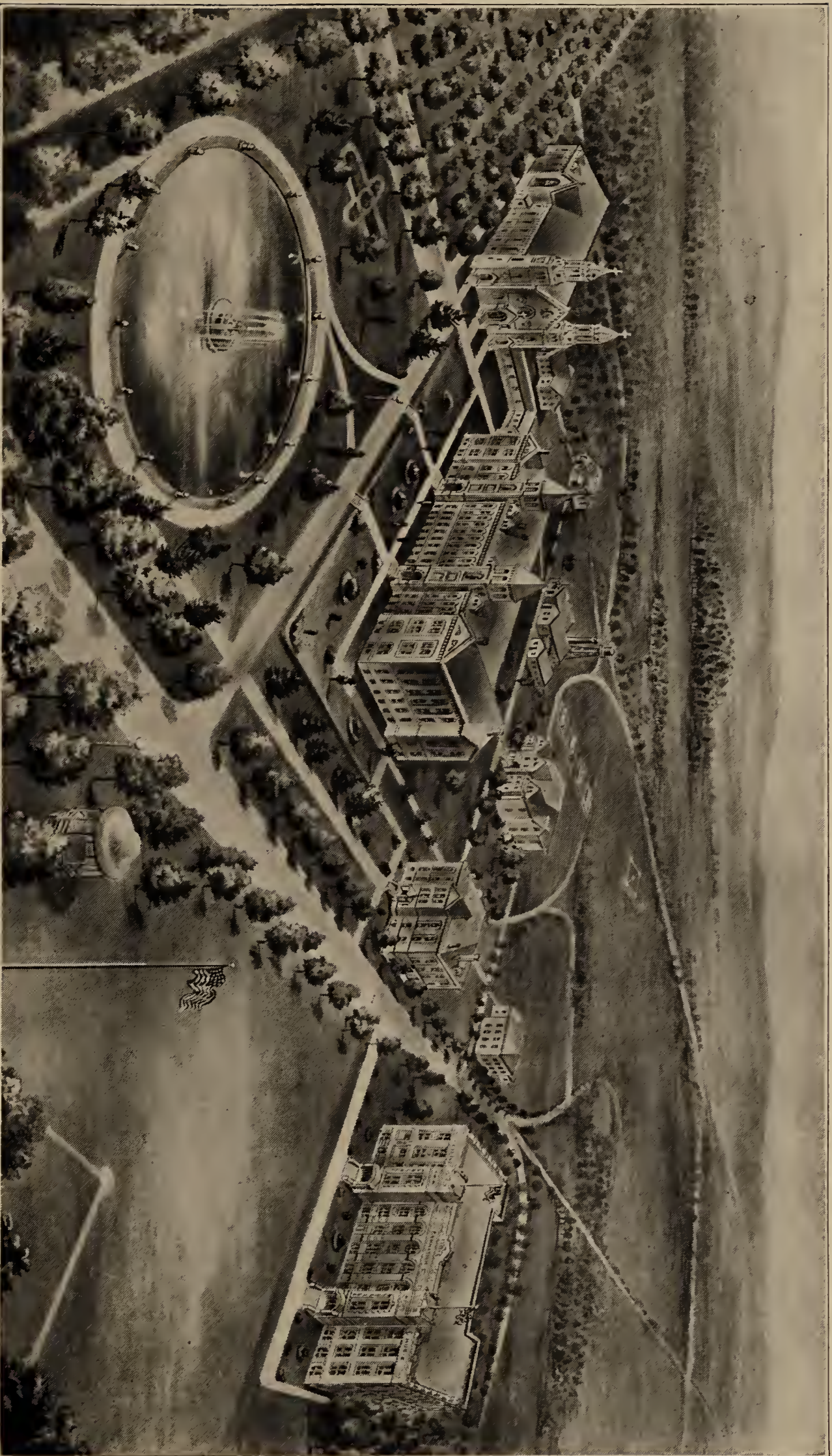


VIEWS OF THE CONCERT HALL.

Silver Jubilee

Happiest and most sacred of all her children's days under the shelter of Alma Mater were those attending the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. With ideal weather, the rarest in the month of June, there was lacking nothing to make the occasion a complete success, even to the smallest of its various details. Monday, the nineteenth, marked the gathering of the visiting clergy, the Alumni and the many other friends of the College, who came on every train until the supper hour saw the groves and campus filled with groups of visitors and each group a reunion in itself of old friends, many of whom were seeing each other for the first time in many years. The beginning of the Silver Jubilee exercises occurred at eight o'clock in the new Alumni Hall. St. Joseph's College has always manifested a thoughtful consideration for the boy. It was quite in keeping with past tradition, therefore, that a student had the honor of speaking the first word. In behalf of Faculty and Students, John Cherry, '16, bade welcome to the Alma Mater's guests and made formal proclamation of the inauguration of the Jubilee festivities. The entertainment of the evening was in the hands of the Columbian Literary Society. Carefully trained by Father Rapp, the rendition of Shakespeare's Henry IV was followed with intense interest and appreciation. It would be hard to decide who among the Columbians were the most enthusiastic, the Columbians who were performing, or a little group of four of the charter members of 1892, who sat apart in the audience, contrasting the finished acting of the evening on the finely appointed stage with their own exactment of the "Wanderer" on a makeshift platform, more than three and twenty years before. No less excellent than the acting was the music. As on other occasions, the music selected by Prof. Hovorka for the orchestra was of the kind that makes an appeal to the higher faculties of man, and the rendition was befitting its character. The Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving, coram Episcopo, was celebrated on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, by Father Augustine, the first Rector of the College. His assistants were his former associates in the Faculty and some of his old boys, who ascribe much of the lasting results of their early training for the priesthood to his paternal care. The Jubilee sermon, "Christian Education," was delivered by Archbishop Henry Moeller of Cincinnati. This was the Archbishop's first visit to Collegeville, and he took occasion to explain his presence as due to a desire to bear testimony to his appreciation of the unremitting zeal of the Fathers

of the Precious Blood, since their establishment in Ohio, in 1844, in the parochial and missionary field, and later, in the cause of Catholic education. That the College felt honored by Archbishop Moeller's presence may be left unsaid; that he was good enough to remain until the end of the Jubilee celebration to officiate at the solemn dedication of the new building and confer the diplomas upon the graduates is a matter deserving of formal acknowledgment and of many thanks; thanks no less sincere because it is recognized that his act was inspired in part through courtesy to his Rt. Rev. Confrere, Bishop Alerding, whom sickness prevented from attending. His absence was the one disappointment of the Silver Jubilee celebration. A father to the College from the day of his appointment as Bishop of Fort Wayne, a regular attendant at the annual Commencements and the officiating prelate at every dedication since 1901, his presence on such an occasion as the Silver Jubilee could be very poorly spared. The dedication of the Concert-Hall Gymnasium, the monument commemorative of the Silver Jubilee, was set for Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock. Vested in cope and mitre and preceded by the acolytes and the college choir, the Most Rev. Archbishop blessed the foundations. Wending its way through the interior, the procession finally reached Alumni Hall, where the ritual was completed. It fell to Father John Cogan, '96, to deliver the address, after which the services were concluded with the singing of the College Ode. The visitors were back again at eight o'clock, when Father Scheidler, Faculty Director of Athletics, sent his boys upon the floor. The various gymnastic functions of the Turnverein were highly interesting and exhibited no little skill on the part of the youthful acrobats. Altogether it was one of the prettiest features of the three days' festivities and well repaid those who had ventured out to see it, when the skies were threatening a heavy rain. The Commencement exercises began on Wednesday morning at eight o'clock. It was the typical St. Joseph's College Commencement, the graduate's and his parents' and relatives' hour. The baccalaureate address was delivered by Nicholas Gonner, editor of the Catholic Tribune, Dubuque, Iowa, who spoke on "Character and Responsibility" in a manner that evoked the sympathetic attention of his audience from the first word to the last. Theodore Fettig then delivered the valedictory for his class, after which the diplomas were awarded, the class honors announced and the jubilee festivities were at an end. Such, briefly stated, were the salient features of the observance of the College's fifth and twentieth year. It should be stated that after all the formal exercises constituted but half the day's engagement. The Silver Jubilee was above all else a time of home-coming, and in the planning of the programs this end was kept in view. The printed list shows the many long recesses that intervened between



THE COLLEGE TODAY.

the different exercises. It may not be doubted that these intervals were the happiest of all the hours. There were informal gatherings everywhere, much strolling over the campus and through the groves; and attendance at the base-ball games and the concerts of the Band. Unmentioned heretofore because not an entertainment for the general guests, was the Alumni banquet on Tuesday evening at half-past six o'clock. The tables were set in the commodious St. Xavier's refectory, which had been transformed into a pretty bower during the course of the afternoon. While there were many invited guests present, including Archbishop Moeller and the visiting clergy, the speaking that followed the serving of the coffee and cigars was limited to a designated few of the old boys. Father Julius Seimetz presided as toastmaster, and was responsible through his happy introductions for many of the gems of oratory which characterized the toasts. As a prelude to the announcements of the responses he first read a letter from the Apostolic Delegate received during the course of the day. It was as follows:

Washington, D. C., June 17, 1916.

Very Rev. George Hindelang, C. PP. S.,
Prov. of the Fathers of the Society of the
Most Precious Blood,
Collegeville, Indiana.

Very Rev. and Dear Father:

I have learned that on the 19th instant you will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the opening of St. Joseph's College at Collegeville, Indiana, which the Fathers of your Society erected twenty-five years ago for the purpose of educating Catholic youth for the Priesthood and for other professional avocations in life.

The large number of Fathers at present employed on the teachers' staff, and the hundreds of students that annually receive their education at the College give evident proof of its prosperity under the benign hand of Divine Providence. It is, therefore, most becoming indeed to commemorate the day on which the Institution first opened its doors, and to gratefully return thanks to the Giver of all good gifts for the numerous favors He has deigned to bestow upon it during the first twenty-five years of its existence.

I join you in spirit in your happy celebration, and, while offering you and your Fathers my warm congratulations on the good you have accomplished, I send my best wishes for an ever increasing measure of success and prosperity for your Institution.

I invoke God's blessing upon you all, and with kind regards beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ John Bonzano, Archbishop of Melitene,
Apostolic Delegate.

The toasts were largely reminiscent, with a tribute here and there towards the Alma Mater and the early members of the Faculty, particularly in the address of Father Thomas Conroy, '96, whose theme was "The Upbuilding of the College." If good Father Augustine was made to appear head and shoulders above his brethren the tribute accorded him was well deserved. Without the odium of comparison, "this was indeed the noblest Roman of them all." Father Cogan, '96, talked on the "Old Boys." His allusions to Father Edward Mungovan, '97, were particularly pointed, compelling the latter in defense of his scholastic record to an extempore response. Father Ed.'s was probably the happiest and most witty speech of the whole evening. A boy in 1891, he impressed his auditors with the dictum of Oliver Wendell Holmes: "If anyone says we're not boys, put him out." Joseph Naughton, '02, had the honor of representing the lay graduates. His theme, "The Spirit of the College," was at once an appreciation of the spirit of the Alma Mater and a testimonial of the loyalty and gratitude of the lay alumni. A neatly worded compliment to the College from His Grace, the Archbishop, brought the banquet to a close.

"A Swamp was of no value. But it was just the place for a monastery, because it made life especially hard." As our retrospect nears its end, the thought expressed in the introduction comes to mind. Today the swamp is drained and filled, and upon the reclaimed acres stand a group of stately buildings, that constitute, materially, St. Joseph's College. With the single difference in externals it may not be said that conditions have greatly changed in five and twenty years. Though not monks, in the strict sense of the word, the teachers at the College must still find life especially hard. The work of the hands has only given way to the work of the mind. In the class-room and over the desk labors the professor as unremittingly as his brethren did before. Not that material sacrifices or material endeavors have ever for a moment ceased to be. With a present physical valuation of perhaps half a million dollars in buildings and equipment alone, there is not a brick or stone in that ever growing fabric that does not bespeak the sacrifice of some individual member of the Congregation. The working brother, the scholastic and the priest has each contributed to the material up-

building with the work of his hands; the pastor and the missionary priest on the outside has each remitted his yearly savings to the common treasury, savings made possible only by personal sacrifice and self-denial; the treasury has ever been open to the last penny to the very heavy demands which the requirements of the College have never ceased to make upon it. With no prospects of material returns for their capital and labor, the Fathers of the Community consider them well spent in the cause to which they have devoted their lives: the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God, and, as one of the means thereto, the education of Catholic young men. May their labors bear fruit even more abundantly in the future than in the past.

W. D. S., '97.

